

Preparing a Service Line Inventory: How to Get Started and Where to Find Information

What are the requirements for the Inventory?

Health and Safety Code Section 116885 requires Community Water Systems to compile an inventory of known lead user service lines in use in its distribution system and identify areas that may have lead user service lines in use in its distribution system by July 1, 2018. "User service line" means the pipe, tubing, and fittings connecting a water main to an individual water meter or service connection.

Possible Sources of Information:

1. Tap Cards or tickets from initial service installation.
2. Plans from water main installation, rehabilitation, and replacement.
3. Historic water utility records.
4. Tax records indicating when buildings were constructed.
5. Plumbing permits.
6. Visual confirmation of pipe material by plumbers or utility crews during maintenance or installation activities.
7. Consult with other neighboring water systems to share experiences.

How to Identify Lead Service Lines:

1. Determine if any service lines were installed 30 years ago or longer. In 1986 Congress prohibited the use of pipes, solder or flux that were not "lead free".
2. Determine if any short pieces of pipe, called goosenecks or pigtails, were used to connect the water mains to customer service lines.
3. Lead pipe was typically installed in smaller service line diameters. Identify service lines that are 2-inches or less in diameter; however, there are rare reports of lead service lines that were installed up to 3-inches in diameter.
4. Physically inspect the piping. Lead is a dull gray color and very soft. If scraped with a key or coin it will turn a bright silver color. Even a strong magnet will not stick to lead.
5. Use available technology to identify lead service lines, such as Eddy current testing.
6. Collaborate with neighboring water systems to share experiences, resources and equipment.

Preparing a Service Line Inventory:

1. Develop a database or list that includes information including but not limited to addresses, street names, pipe lengths, installation date, pipe diameter, predicted materials, and actual materials; and/or
2. Prepare a map identifying areas with lead service lines or service lines constructed of unknown material.

Sources of Additional Information about Lead Plumbing and Service Lines

- Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative – www.lslr-collaborative.org
- National Public Radio Interactive Guide to Identifying Lead Pipes in Your Home:
 - <https://apps.npr.org/find-lead-pipes-in-your-home/en/#>
- AWWA Research Foundation - Innovative Techniques for Locating Lead Service Lines:

- http://www.waterrf.org/PublicReportLibrary/RFR90678_1995_813.pdf