

# WATER SUPPLY MATERIALS INVENTORY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently revised the 1991 Lead and Copper Rule, an initiative established to enhance drinking water safety by minimizing copper and lead concentrations. This latest revision, with a primary goal of sustaining public health protection, imposes more stringent measures to mitigate the risk of tap water contamination. Under this nationwide directive, all public water systems must conduct a comprehensive inventory of service line materials in the local water distribution networks. Public water systems are mandated to achieve compliance with these new guidelines by October 16, 2024, as stipulated by the EPA.

## What is a Service Line?

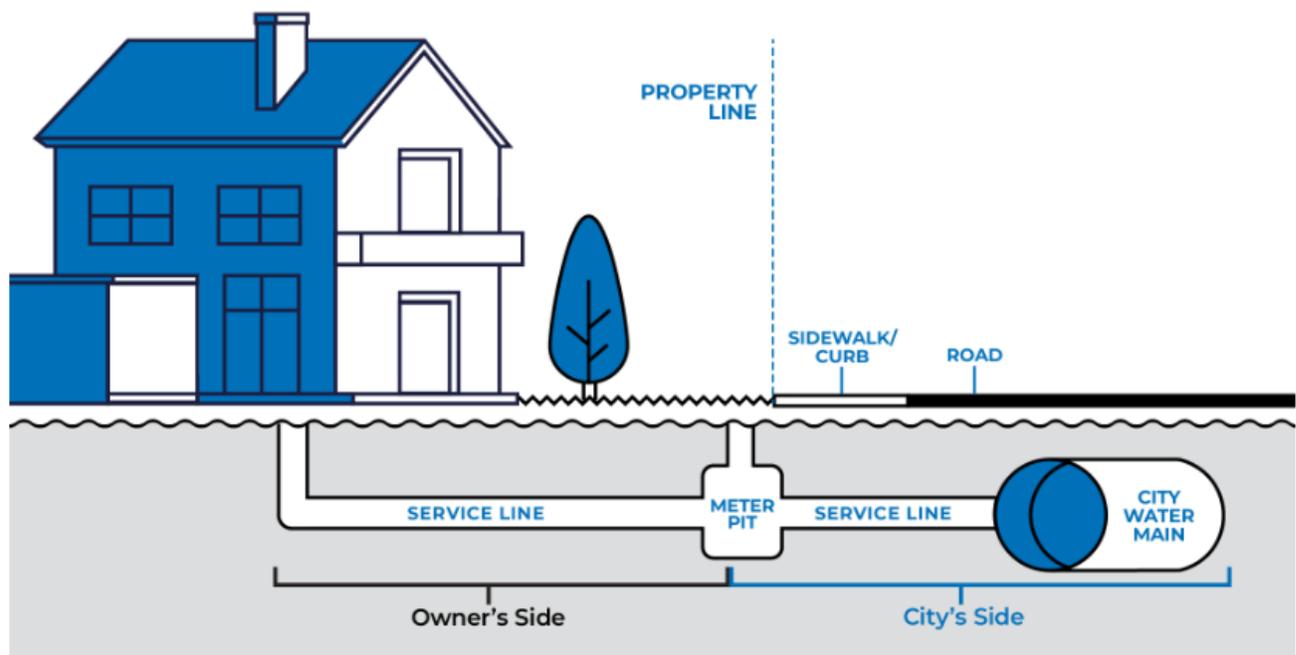
The service line is the piping which connects a home, business, structure, etc. to the water main. The City and the property owner share ownership of the service line.

## What types of Service Lines is the City of Webster inventorying?

Under the nationwide mandate, all service lines will be inventoried. However, physical investigations are only warranted when the connection was installed in 1988 or prior. Types of service lines include residential (single and multi-family), commercial, industrial, educational/institutional, agricultural, and reuse.

## Who owns the Service Line, the City of Webster or the customer?

The City of Webster owns the portion from the main to the water meter, including the water meter itself. The property owner is responsible for the portion from the meter to the point it enters the home or structure, as well as all the plumbing in the home or building.



## **What is Lead?**

Lead is a naturally occurring metal which could pose health risks if inhaled or ingested. It may be present in the air, soil, dust, food, and water.

## **What defines a Service Line as being a Lead Service Line?**

A lead service line (either publicly or privately owned) is a pipe made of lead which is used in potable water distribution to connect a water main to a user's premises.

## **Are all residential Service Lines potentially Lead Service Lines?**

Lead service lines are more likely to be present in older developments and neighborhoods due to changes in regulation and updated water testing standards passed over the years. Homes built prior to 1989 are within the scope of needing to be inspected for possible lead service lines. However, lead service lines are not common.

## **Is the water I get from the City of Webster safe to drink and use?**

Yes. The drinking water in Webster meets and/or exceeds all TCEQ and EPA standards.

## **What is the Lead & Copper Rule Improvement (LCRI) and why is it important for our City's water system?**

The LCRI is a new federal regulation or law passed down from the EPA through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with many forthcoming requirements for the City. The first of which is the Service Line Inventory. The LCRI is important for our City to assure the TCEQ and EPA, by completing and proving the material types of service lines within our distribution system.

## **What actions is the City of Webster Public Works taking to ensure the accuracy of the Water Supply Materials Inventory?**

The City and contractor are reviewing historical records, such as engineered drawings, construction documents, tap/connection reports, etc., to aid in the determination of material type from a desktop analysis of the system. If material type is questionable or undetermined, physical investigations would occur at the location. Field material type is determined by inspecting a small portion of the service line(s) and conducting a magnetic test and a scratch test. Based on the results of the pipe color, density, magnetism, and other characteristics, it will determine the pipe material type. These tests, protocols, and methodologies are accepted and recommended by both the EPA and TCEQ.

## **When does the City of Webster expect the Water Supply Materials Inventory to be completed?**

The City of Webster will be compliant with the EPA's requirement to achieve compliance with the new inventory guidelines by October 16, 2024, as stipulated by the EPA.

## **How does the City of Webster Public Works' monitoring process for lead and copper work, how often does it take place, and where are the specific locations' samples collected?**

The TCEQ requires the City to report results of 15 samples every 3 years. During the previous sampling event, none of the lead and copper samples exceeded the action level. Tap samples are collected by customers from kitchen sinks and bathroom faucets at TCEQ approved locations, analyzed by an approved laboratory, and reported to TCEQ to assure safe drinking water and meet regulatory compliance requirements.

**What role does the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) play in overseeing and regulating the City of Webster's Water quality, especially in relation to lead and copper levels?**

The TCEQ is the State's primary agency for the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The EPA regulates water systems through the SDWA, but allows the local agency, in Texas' case the TCEQ, to further regulate drinking water. The TCEQ is allowed to enact additional regulations beyond the EPA. TCEQ is the ultimate authority as their conditions will either meet or surpass the EPA requirements.