

**You can verify your service line material by conducting the scratch test.**  
**Please email a picture of the service line with the property address to the**  
**Town of Plattsburgh Water Department at:**  
**LeadService@townofplattsburgh.org**

### **Determining what kind of metal**

Use a key or a coin to gently scratch the pipe you found close to where it comes in through the wall or floor and look at what color it is. If it is orange, or pale orange, it is copper. If it is some shade of gray, scratch that section of pipe. If it is hard to scratch and a magnet sticks to the pipe, you may have galvanized steel pipes. If it is soft and a magnet does not stick, you may have lead pipes.

### **Materials You May Need**

You may need something to scratch a pipe, like a key or coin and a magnet (any magnet will work) to test your pipes. These tools will be used to determine if your metal pipes are made from galvanized steel, copper or lead.



### **Scratch/Magnet Test**



lead pipe

- Dull, soft and silver-gray color.
- Easily scratched, turn a shiny silver color when scratched.
- A magnet doesn't stick.



copper pipe

- A penny like color in a scratched area.
- A magnet doesn't stick.



galvanized pipe

- Dull, silver-gray color.
- Not easily scratched, remain dull silver-gray when scratched.
- A strong magnet DOES stick.



What did you find out about your pipe?

- My pipe is orange and a magnet won't stick. It's likely copper.
- My pipe was hard to scratch, and a magnet stuck. It's likely galvanized steel.
- My pipe was easy to scratch, and a magnet didn't stick. You may have a lead pipe.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead-0>