

Visual Inspection of Service Line Material

The material composition of a service line can be identified through visual inspection.

Plastic is smooth and comes in various colors like white, black, blue, or blue-green.

Lead is a soft metal that is a dull, silver-gray color. It is easily scratched with a coin or key, and the scratched areas will be shiny. It is non-magnetic, meaning a magnet will not stick to it. Lead pipe is commonly attached to another pipe with a “wiped” joint.

Copper is the color of a penny.

Galvanized is a dull, silver-gray color that is difficult to scratch. It is magnetic, meaning a magnet will stick to it.



Plastic

Scratched Lead

Copper

Galvanized Steel & valve

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