



Draft Quick Guide

Starting your Service Line Inventory

How to Get Started and Where to Find Information? What are the requirements for the Inventory?

The Lead & Copper Rule Revision requires all Community and Non-Transient Non-Community water systems to complete and submit an inventory of service lines in use in its distribution system by October 16, 2024. "Service line" means the pipe, tubing, and fittings connecting a water main to a service connection.

Montana DEQ recommends systems start reviewing their available documents for information regarding lead service lines (LSLs.) Funding will likely be available to assist in developing inventories, planning and LSL replacement. Below is some general information regarding where to look for LSL information.

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. Complete the LSL Inventory form that includes information including but not limited to addresses, street names, pipe lengths, installation date, pipe diameter, predicted materials, and actual materials.
2. The Inventory must be submitted to DEQ by October 16, 2024. DEQ is developing a database to store and manage the inventory information. Please contact DEQ prior to submitting your inventories.

Performing a thorough review of a water systems records are critical. Systems should only designated a service line as “unknown” after an extensive review. EPA treats “unknown” service lines as Lead when determining replacement activities.

If a water system is planning a water main replacement or repair, DEQ recommends replacing any LSLs that are encountered (before and after curb stop). Funding will be available to assist with the removal (public and private sides). Partial LSL replacements have shown to increase the potential of lead entering the water. EPA will not count partial replacements when determining replacement compliance.

Additional guidance regarding inventories and funding will be made available soon.

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

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