



# TOWN OF BOONSBORO

21 NORTH MAIN STREET ♦ BOONSBORO, MARYLAND 21713

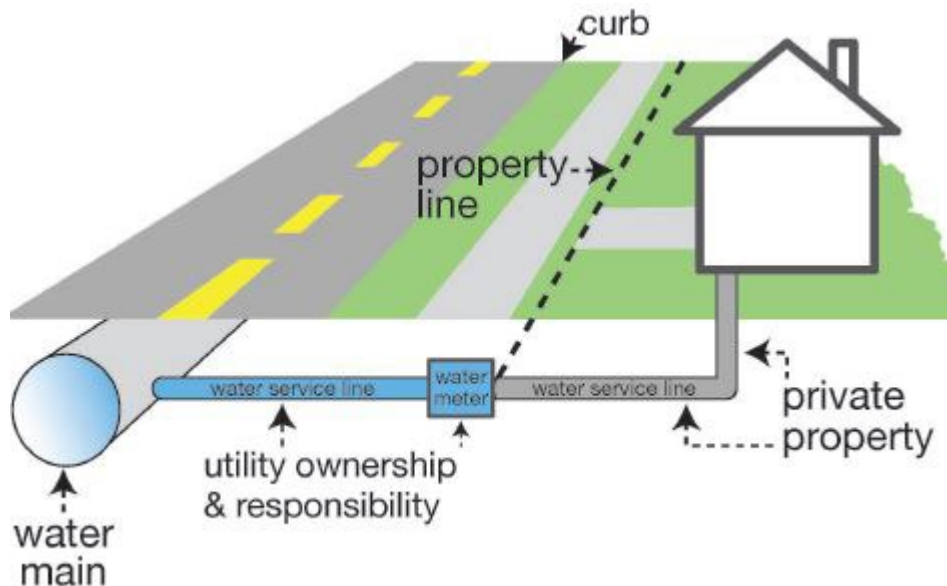
WWW.TOWN.BOONSBORO.MD.US ♦ 301-432-5141

Dear Boonsboro Municipal Utility Commission customer,

The Town of Boonsboro would greatly appreciate your help in identifying where the lead water service pipes are located in our town, so we are able to determine a good plan for replacing all of the lead water service lines. Water service lines are the pipes along your property that run from the Town's water main to the water meter to your home (see diagram below). Common water service line materials found in homes include copper, lead, galvanized steel, and plastic. Your input is essential in helping us update our records. A survey form is located on the enclosed card. Please read through the information and instructions first as it will show how to determine the material of the water service pipe that is entering your building/home. To identify the material of your water service line, please follow the step-by-step instructions below. Alternatively, you can contact a licensed plumber to identify the material for you or contact [adminassist@townofboonsboro.com](mailto:adminassist@townofboonsboro.com) for assistance.

This quick 1-2minute survey will help you identify the material of your pipes on your property. **MATERIALS NEEDED FOR TESTING: REFRIGERATOR MAGNET (coin-style magnet works best) AND A PENNY.**

1. **Find the water service line entering the building.** If you have a basement, the water service line will typically enter the building through the basement floor or the basement side wall.



2. **Scratch Test.** Scratch the outer surface of the pipe with a penny or coin.
3. **Magnet Test.** Place a magnet on the pipe to check if it sticks to the pipe.



Your Service Line is Lead if:  
**Scratch Test:** Area is shiny & silver.  
**Magnet Test:** Does not stick.



Your Service Line is Copper if:  
**Scratch Test:** Area is copper in color like a penny.  
**Magnet Test:** Does not stick.



Your Service Line is Galvanized if:  
**Scratch Test:** Area remains dull gray.  
**Magnet Test:** Magnet sticks

Some additional information and example photos that may help you identify your pipe material is below: Lead pipes may be thicker than the other pipes in your house. Lead pipes will have characteristic bulbed “wiped” joints where they meet with other materials. Please see an example photo below. Copper pipes may corrode to a mint green color like the Statue of Liberty. Galvanized pipes are usually threaded at the connections- they screw into their fittings. Galvanized pipes are usually straight- they do not curve like lead pipes.

Once you know the material of your water service line, please fill out the survey located at [www.town.boonsboro.md.us/servicelinesurvey](http://www.town.boonsboro.md.us/servicelinesurvey) to report your results to the Town of Boonsboro. The survey will require you to upload photos of your water service line for Town staff to review. Taking a photo with your mobile phone or tablet is a convenient way to upload your photos into the survey. We are asking you to submit (3) three photographs of your service line to assist the Town. All photos should be clear and well lit. Please turn on the flash on your phone. **First Photo:** A close up, within 1 foot of the scratched pipe area. **Second Photo:** A photo from 2 to 3 feet away from the scratched pipe area that shows the wall/floor penetration and any connecting pipes. **Third Photo:** A photo from 10 feet away from the pipe to show where the pipe is within the room. Feel free to contact us at [adminassist@townofboonsboro.com](mailto:adminassist@townofboonsboro.com) with any questions or concerns regarding identifying your service line materials.

**Having lead lines in your home is cause for concern and we recommend further investigation. Please contact your plumber for further information and to discuss a plan of action and/or consider replacing your water line.**

Thank You for your kind assistance!

The Town of Boonsboro