

West Wilkes Water Association, Inc.

4309 Boone Trail

Millers Creek, NC 28651

We know you have seen the water bills and even heard from a neighbor that we need to know what type of pipe runs from the meter to your home.

This is the full information about what our federal and state governments need to know. This will also be posted on our website <https://www.westwilkeswater.org> as well.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact our office at **336-838-5614**.

Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule

The U.S. EPA's revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) of 2021 strengthens protections by requiring water systems to identify and replace lead service lines, improve testing at schools and childcare facilities, and provide better communication about lead risks to the public.

An initial inventory of public and private service line materials was completed in October 2024, but our efforts to refine and improve this inventory will continue for years to come. This will involve a respectable request from some of our customers to assist in identifying lead pipes on private property.

Lead and lead-containing materials were permitted in municipal and household plumbing until 1986. As a result, homes or businesses built before March 1987 may have lead service lines or plumbing, which could allow small amounts of lead from pipes or solder to dissolve into the water. We need your help to ensure we eliminate any remaining lead.

How You Can Help

The EPA is requiring the nation's water providers to conduct inventories of the water service lines they're responsible for, as well as the lines on private properties. The goal? To find lead lines wherever they may still exist. We need your help! Because this work must take place on private property, we cannot access it without your permission. We need to partner with you to find out if lead exists on your property.

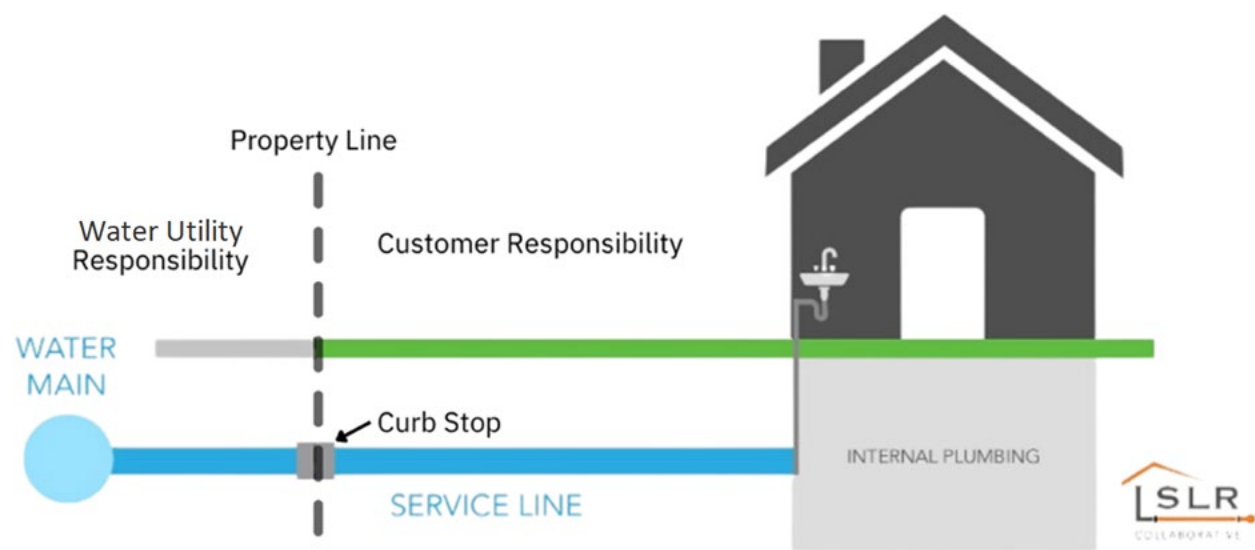
Please help us identify your water line material by completing our online survey linked below. To make it easier for you to help us, we've created a simple survey to guide you in locating your service line, identifying its material, and submitting your findings. This will allow us to determine if any future actions are needed.

Our Initial Service Line Inventory

To identify lead in every water system nationwide, the EPA's revised Lead and Copper Rule introduced a new requirement for all public water systems to develop an "initial inventory" of every water service line and connection by completing a records review. We completed this portion of the requirement in October 2024.

A "service line" refers to the underground pipe that delivers water from the main to a home or business. Each service line connects to the water main, the customer's property, and the interior plumbing, and may be made of various materials such as lead, copper, iron, brass, or plastic.

We are responsible for maintaining our water main, the connections between the main and the water meter, and the water meter itself. However, our customers are responsible for the portion of the service line running from the water meter to their home or business, along with their internal plumbing.



Why is a Service Line Inventory Important?

The required lead service line inventory is a systematic approach mandated by regulations that enables municipalities and water utilities to identify and document the presence of lead service lines and lead plumbing materials within their infrastructure.

By creating a comprehensive assessment of the water service line materials, utilities can pinpoint which properties are at risk due to lead service lines, lead solder, or lead-containing fixtures, ensuring that no potential source of lead is overlooked. This inventory allows for the prioritization of areas most in need of remediation, enabling targeted replacement efforts to protect vulnerable communities.

Additionally, the inventory aids in regulatory compliance, helping utilities meet federal and state requirements aimed at reducing lead exposure in drinking water, thereby minimizing legal liabilities. It also fosters public awareness by informing residents about potential lead risks in their water supply, encouraging proactive measures such as testing and line replacement. The collected data serves as a valuable resource for decision-making, infrastructure planning, and funding requests, ultimately supporting long-term improvements.

Furthermore, establishing an inventory facilitates ongoing monitoring, making it easier to track progress in lead remediation efforts and evaluate the effectiveness of public health interventions. Overall, the lead service line inventory is a crucial tool in identifying and addressing lead in plumbing systems, promoting safer drinking water and protecting public health.

Public Information

As we continue to collect data, we will actively update this webpage and reach out to you through various channels, including customer letters, billing messages, social media, and news releases. We will collaborate with local officials and staff to ensure you have access to the latest updates on our efforts. You can view our current inventory on the dashboard below.