DeKalb County Tips to Identify Your Water Service Line

Thank you for assisting the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management in identifying the water service lines within our service area required by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). Below you will find tips on how to find the correct portion of your water service line. Once you have found the correct portion of the water service line, please follow the steps below to identify the material that it is made of, and complete the Survey form.

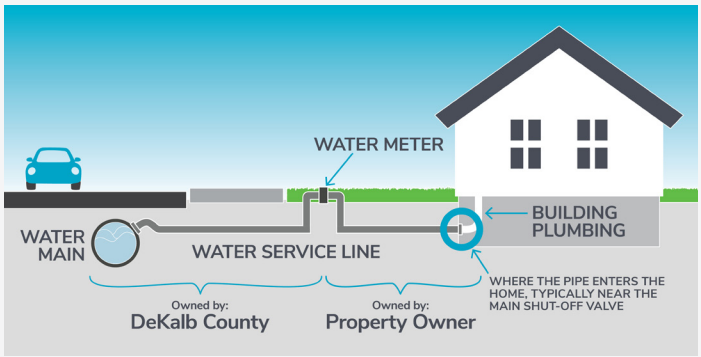
Let's Locate Your Service Line

How do I know where to find my water service line?

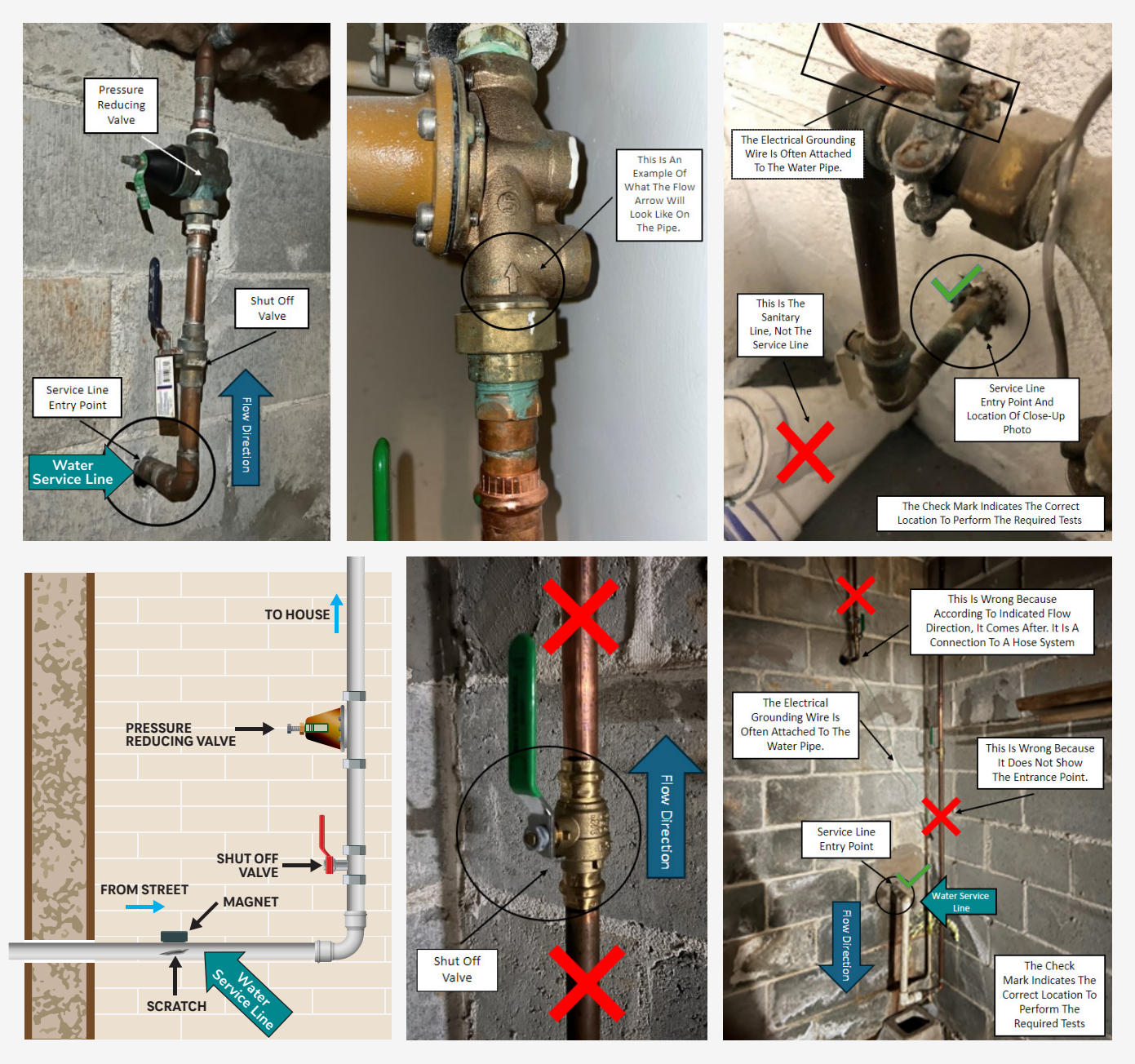
The water service line delivers water to the inside of your home. The underground water pipe comes through the wall or floor of your basement, crawl space, or lowest floor of your building or house. A small portion of the water service line is visible right where it comes into the building before it connects to the internal plumbing. The service line can be found following these tips:

- The water service will enter through the wall or floor on the side of the building that is closest to the water meter, which is often near the street.

  Determine the side of the house or building closest to the water meter. The water meter is located underground outside your home or building inside a box. The meter box has a cover that looks like one of these examples:



- The water service line is the portion of the pipe upstream of the pressure reducing valve. The upstream side is between the pressure-reducing valve and the wall or floor and has no pipes branching off. The upstream side can also be found by finding the arrow embossed on the pressure reducing valve and looking to the flat side of the arrow.



Note: the pipe on the other side (downstream side, indicated by the red X in the photos) of the pressure reducing valve is called the "plumbing" or "premise plumbing" and is not considered the service line. The portion of the pipe that needs to be identified is the material of the pipe directly penetrating the foundation (wall) or floor. Flow direction may also vary depending on the home so it is important to identify the direction of the flow by looking for the flow arrows if there are any present.

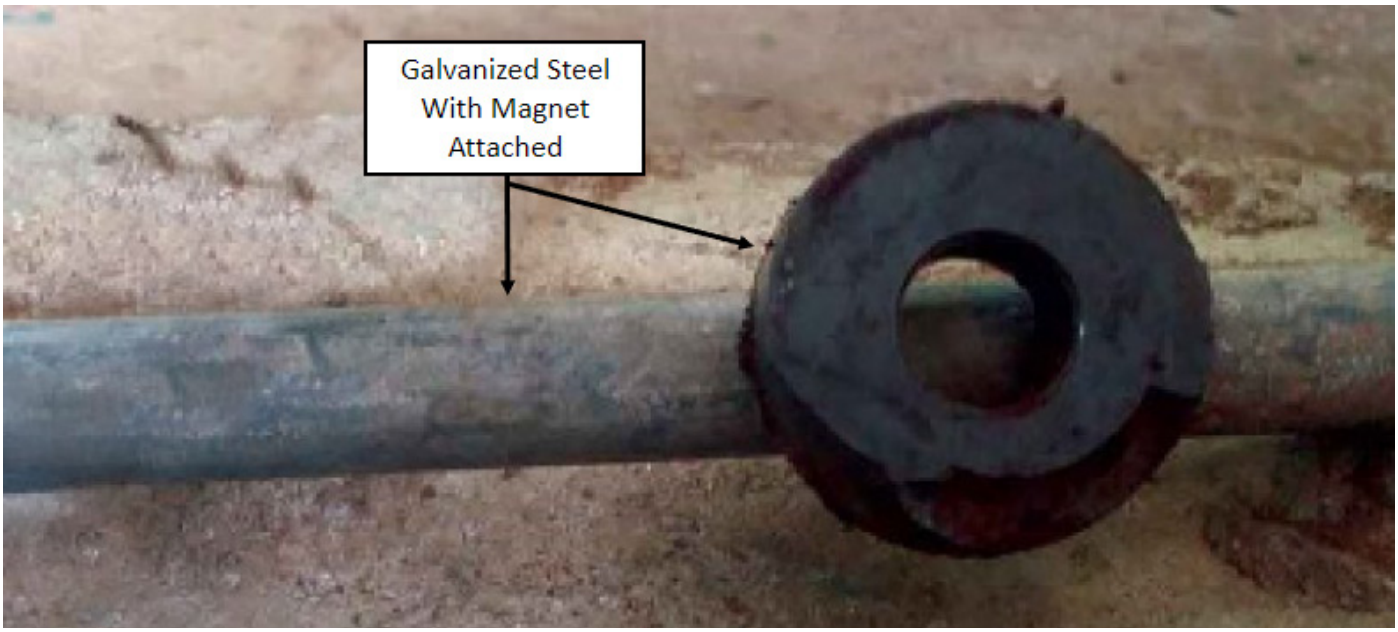
How do I identify my water service line material?

Scratch the surface of the pipe near where it comes into the wall thoroughly with a coin, key or flat head screwdriver. This scratch should expose the metal material.

Pipes may be dirty, oxidized, or painted. The scratch needs to show the "raw" material of the pipe. The scratch needs to be on the section of the pipe closest to the wall or floor penetration. Possible water pipe material colors at scratch:

Gold or yellow	Brass
Orange or like a new penny	Copper
Silver	Lead
Gray	Galvanized Steel/Iron
Black, blue, white	Plastic

Note: Some pipes appear like other materials until they are scratched. Be sure to scratch through the top layer of dirt, oxidation, or paint to reveal the metal underneath.



Note about gray pipes: A gray pipe that does not stick to a magnet may be lead. If the magnet sticks to the pipe, it is likely to be galvanized steel. Be sure to try to attach a magnet to the pipe.

QUESTIONS?

CALL: 770-270-6243

VISIT: www.dekalbcountyga.gov/departments/watershed-management/business-services/lead-copper-rule-revisions-program

DeKalb County GEORGIA