



**HARRISONBURG | VA**  
**FRIENDLY BY NATURE**



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## City seeks community’s help in identifying water service line materials

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg Public Utilities Department is asking community members to help identify what materials their home or business’s water service line is made from in order to ensure the health and wellness of The Friendly City.

The department is collecting water service line information as part of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, which focuses on protecting public health and reducing exposure to lead and copper in drinking water. The EPA announced a requirement in 2022 for organizations to prepare and maintain a service line material inventory by Oct. 16, 2024.

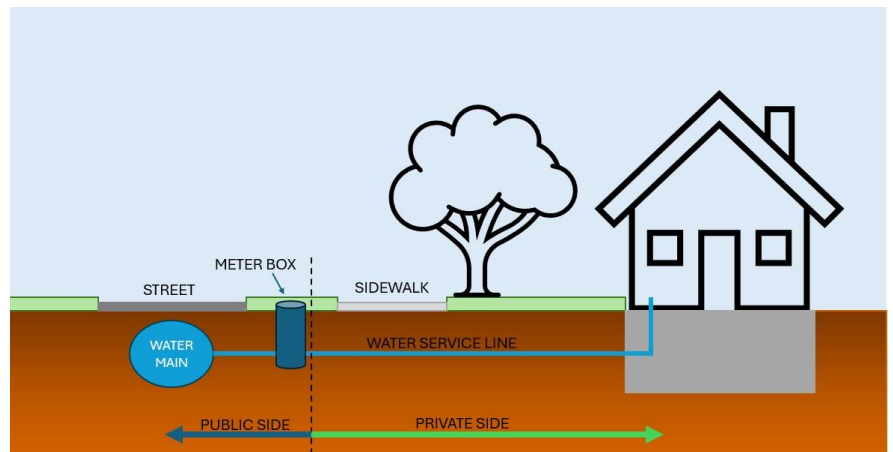
Harrisonburg Public Utilities is not currently aware of any lead service lines in use in homes or businesses in the area but needs the community’s help to identify any lines the department might not know about.

“Our staff remains dedicated to making sure our community has safe and reliable drinking water,” Harrisonburg Public Utilities Engineer Micaela Smith said. “It’s important that we confirm water service line materials in use across our community and we can’t do this without your help.”

A database and survey is now available at <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/lead-service-line> where community members can learn how to check the material of their water service line – which connects a property to the City’s water main – and report that information to Harrisonburg Public Utilities. Water service lines can be made of multiple different materials, including lead, and lead pipes can contribute to contaminated water which is proven to be hazardous to a person’s health.

While City staff will verify the material on the public side of the line, customers must verify the material on their private side of the line.

Community members are encouraged to first review the online Lead Service Line Map to see if their water service line material is already known. If it is not known, community members can then utilize the Water Service Line Material Survey to learn how to check their service line and easily report that material to Harrisonburg Public Utilities. The water service line typically comes into a property in a basement or crawl space where a shut-off valve is located. If a customer cannot locate their water service line to verify its material on their own, they may need to consult with a plumber to complete the check.



*Harrisonburg Public Utilities is asking community members to help identify what materials their home or business’s water service line is made from. (Above) While Harrisonburg Public Utilities will confirm the material on the public side of the line, community members must verify the material on the private side.*

Lead is almost never present when water flows from the treatment facility, nor is it present in the water mains running beneath the streets. However, in some older homes lead may be present in the pipe connecting the home to the water system or in the home plumbing. A national ban was established in 1978 that prohibited the installation of lead water service pipes, however lead water service pipes may exist in any water connections made prior to that date.

Lead in service pipes or plumbing can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the tap. To prevent lead from dissolving into water from lead service lines or home plumbing, Harrisonburg Public Utilities adjusts the water's chemistry at the treatment plant. This process is known as corrosion control. Water providers sample water at homes considered to be high risk in order to ensure the corrosion control remains effective. Although corrosion control can reduce risks, the best way to assure a home is safe from lead exposure through water is to remove the potential sources of lead.

***The City of Harrisonburg*** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).

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