



CITY OF SWEETWATER

"We lead with trust and respect to provide a vibrant, secure community for all."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 23, 2023

MEDIA REQUESTS:

Please email kcox@coswtr.org

City of Sweetwater

200 East Fourth Street
Sweetwater, Texas 79556
www.sweetwatertx.gov

City of Sweetwater to Inventory Water Service Lines

Sweetwater, Texas – In December 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule, targeting water running through lead service lines. The largest modification to the rule is requiring municipalities throughout the county to conduct a complete inventory of service lines by October 2024.

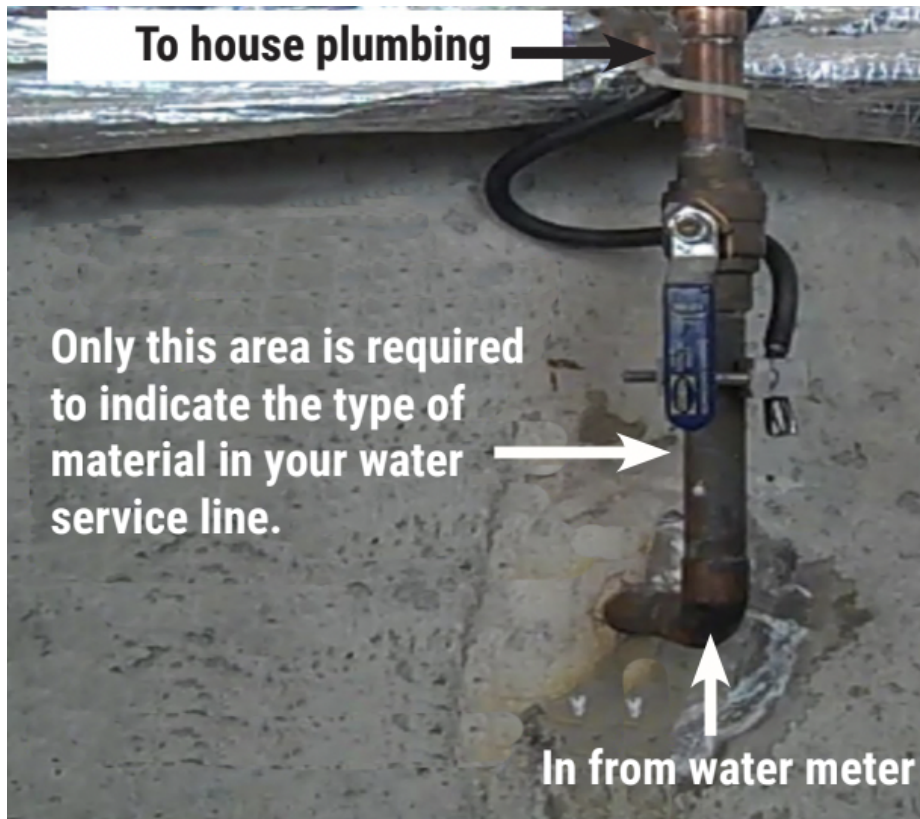
The City of Sweetwater works diligently to provide safe, clean drinking water to our customers. In the coming weeks and months the Utility Department will be contacting customers to determine the material of the pipe for water service line. A water service line is a pipe that runs from the City's water main to a building's internal plumbing. Lines running from the water treatment plant through the mains to the meters are owned by the City. Beyond the meter to the home/building is owned by the customer. A lead service line is a water service line that is completely or partially made of lead components.

The City is doing a complete inventory of all service lines to verify and confirm different types of material, not just lead. Following the completion of our inventory, the City will be sending out notices to locations with lead service lines and information on how to have them removed. If a customer does not know the pipe material entering the home/building, the City will conduct a quick inspection of the water pipe to identify the material. Crews will only need to see the pipe at the location where the line from the water meter enters your house/building.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children could have decreases in IQ and attention span and increases in learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy have increased risk. Adults may have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Customers with further questions can contact the Water Utilities Department at 325-236-6313 (ext 3). Customers can relay information about service line material by emailing clecroy@coswtr.org or call 325-236-6313 (ext 3).

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Above is a photo example of the location Utility Crews will need to access in order to identify the material of a customers water service line.