Pipe Identification and Picture Guide

TREKK is assisting the City of Drexel in the completion of their Lead Service Inventory Project to ensure that the community's drinking water is safe. You can help the completion of this project by following this guide and locating, identifying, and photographing your water service line and its entry point into your property. This document will go in the order in which they appear on the form. If you have any questions or are unable to locate or take a photo of your main water line, please call 816-521-6585 to set an appointment.

1. **Plumbing Installation Date**: Please give your best estimate in which the plumbing and water system within the house was installed. If you are unsure of the date, even a best estimate will work.
2. **Water Softener Usage** - A water softener is used to remove mineral from your water entering from the city. It will be connected to the water line of your house and can be a useful spot to start to look for the entry of the water line. Only about 25% of homes have water softeners.
3. **Primary Pipe Type** - This section is what is most critical, we need a picture of where the main water line as it enters your home. Clear, well-lit photos of the entry point are useful. Usually, this is visible from the basement or crawlspace of your home. The water line usually enters into your house from the closest point to the water meter on your property. If you are unable to find it, please contact TREKK at 816-521-6585 for help or to schedule an appointment.

Next will be a guide as to help identify different pipe types and to help show the type of photos we need.

Some house main water lines split up and use different materials in different sections, and you may submit photos of these lines if you have any concerns. One such example of what a secondary water line is the photo to the left, which has a primary type of galvanized steel, but a secondary of PEX.

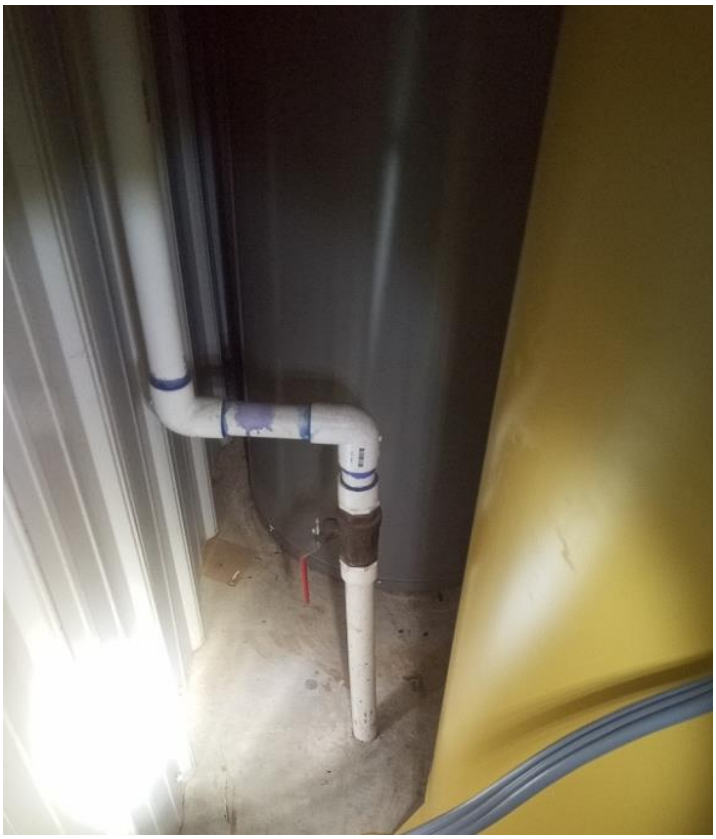
PEX: Identifiable by the distinctive red and blue lines, PEX pipes are easily identifiable, and were first installed in homes for water line usage during and after the 1990's. After time, the color may start to fade making them look grey. They can also move very fluidly, and are one of the only pipes that can move and position in more of an unconstrained manner.

Copper: Copper is one of the most popular metals to use for the transportation of water into the home. It is identifiable by a brass color, and with age, turns green due to reactions with the air.

Copper is not magnetic.

Galvanized Steel: To identify galvanized steel water mainlines, look for pipes that are gray or metallic silver with a rough texture and visible threads at the joints. These pipes are heavy and often found in homes built before the 1960s. Over time, they may show signs of rust, corrosion, or discoloration, especially near joints or fittings. **These pipes ARE MAGNETIC** and are safe for in home use.

PVC: To identify PVC water mainlines, look for white or cream-colored pipes with a smooth, glossy surface. These lightweight, rigid pipes typically have size and rating information printed along their length. PVC pipes do not corrode. They are not made of metal and feel like plastic. Usually, purple sealant from installation is usually spread alongside the pipe.



Lead: To identify lead water mainlines, look for pipes that are dull gray and soft, easily scratched with a key or similar object. These pipes are heavy and flexible, often found in homes built before the 1950s. Over time, lead pipes may develop a whitish, powdery coating from oxidation. They may look similar to galvanized steel, but unlike steel, lead pipes are **NOT MAGNETIC** so they can be checked to not be lead if a magnet sticks to them.

Other example photos of how your water main may look.