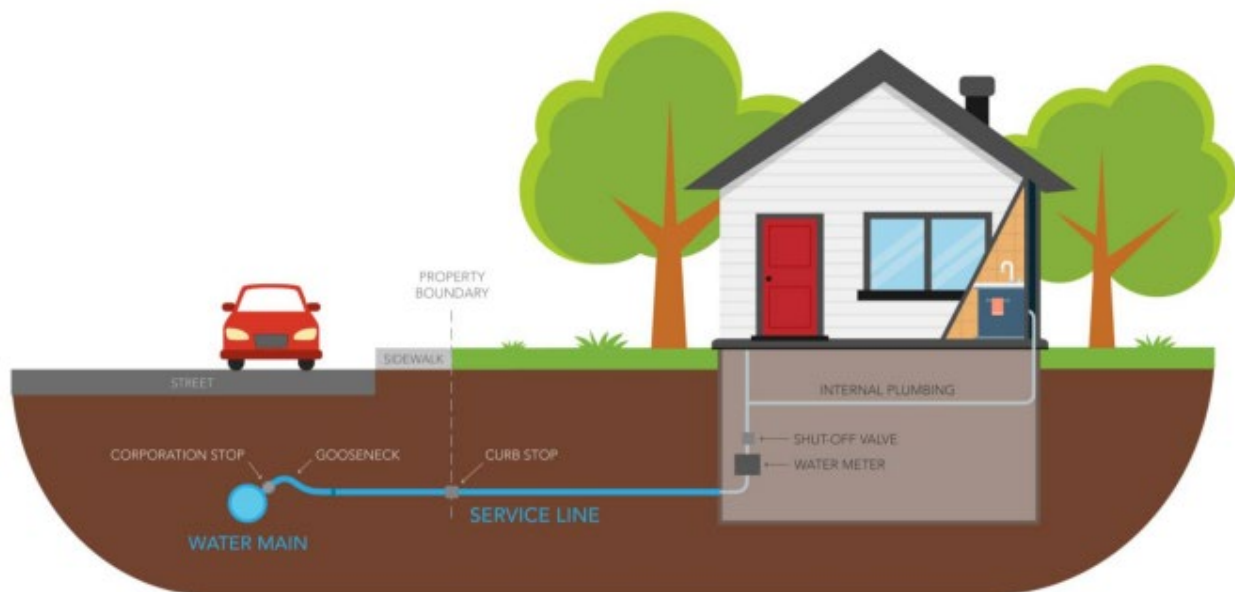


## **ON-LINE SURVEY FOR WATER SERVICE LINE INSPECTION**

In July 2021, Public Law P.L. 2021, Chapter 183 was enacted, requiring all public community water systems to replace Lead Service Lines in their service area within 10 years. In January of this year, the Borough of Ramsey completed their initial inventory of all water service lines in our system. A copy of this inventory is available for your information at [www.ramseynj.com/LSLinventory](http://www.ramseynj.com/LSLinventory). A hard copy of the inventory is also available from the Borough upon request.

### **WHAT IS A WATER SERVICE LINE AND WHO OWNS IT?**

A water service line is a pipe that runs from the Borough of Ramsey's water main located in the roadway to the customer water meter located inside your home or business. The service line carries water from the water main to the internal plumbing system inside the building. As illustrated below in the diagram, the Borough of Ramsey owns the portion of the service line from the water main to the curb stop valve box, and the property owner owns the remaining portion of the service line from the curb stop valve box to the customer water meter. The water meter is owned by the Borough. Service lines can vary in size and material. In general, service lines in Ramsey's system are 3/4-inch in diameter. The composite pipe materials for service lines can be either lead, galvanized, or copper. Galvanized services may include lead goosenecks or pigtails as shown in the illustration. The Borough of Ramsey has approximately 5, 900 services in our water system.



*Typical Water Service*

## WHAT IS A LEAD SERVICE LINE?

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is a water service pipe that is entirely made of lead or contains portions that are made of lead (goosenecks or pigtails). The Borough of Ramsey is not aware of any service lines in their system that are composed entirely of lead. Under P.L. 2021, Chapter 183, galvanized pipes are considered to be a LSL.

## WHAT IS THE BOROUGH DOING ABOUT LSLs?

The Borough is continually updating our inventory for the service lines in our water system. We are in process of developing a LSL Replacement Program to identify and replace all known LSLs in our system. Because of the estimated potential number of LSL, the replacement of services will be performed in phases, and customers who have LSLs will be notified accordingly when the replacement work is scheduled to be performed.

The Borough of Ramsey Water Department maintains records for their portion of the water service line that is owned by the Borough (the portion in the street). Ramsey, however, does not keep records of the material of construction and size for the service line portion owned by the property owner. The Borough needs to identify the materials of construction for the portion of the water service line owned by you, the property owner, to determine if your water service is a LSL so that we can update our inventory and ultimately schedule your service for replacement. To accomplish this, we're asking property owners to help us by conducting a visual inspection of the service pipe where it enters the home or business at the water meter, and to furnish the results to us by completing an on-line Water Service Inspection Form. Information on how to access the on-line Form to complete the survey will be mailed out by the Borough to property owners.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT KIND OF PIPE I HAVE FOR MY SERVICE LINE?

You can perform the visual inspection of your service line at the water meter to find out if you have a lead, galvanized, or copper service line. **Lead** service pipes are general dull gray, very soft material. **Galvanized** pipe is also gray, but much harder as it's made of steel. **Copper** pipe is copper in color, similar to a penny. You can determine what type of water pipe you have by performing the following steps:

### What you'll need-

- A key or coin.
- A strong magnet; if you have one (i.e., similar to one that might be used to hold things on your refrigerator).
- Ruler or tape measure.

### Steps to take to find out what type of pipe you have:

Locate the water meter in your home or business. In mostly all cases, it's located in the basement. Make sure you're looking at the water meter (refer to the picture in the inspection form) and not the gas meter.

- Find the pipe that enters from the outside wall or through the floor and connects to your water meter.
- Use the key or coin to gently scratch the surface of the pipe. Avoid using any other sharp object to scratch the pipe, as this may damage the pipe. If the pipe happens to be painted, you will need to remove some of the paint with sand paper before scratching the pipe with the key or coin.
- If you have a magnet, place it onto the surface of pipe to see if it will stick. If you don't have a magnet; it's ok to avoid this step.
- **Determine the type you have by comparing it to the photos and information table in the on-line Inspection Form.**
- Measure the size (diameter) of your service line pipe with the ruler or tape measure.
- Fill out the on-line Inspection Form and send it to the Borough of Ramsey by pressing the "Submit" button at the end of the form.

### **WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE ABOUT PERFORMING THE VISUAL INSPECTION?**

If you are not comfortable in performing the visual inspection of the service pipe to determine what type of service line you have, or completing the on-line Inspection Form, the Borough can have someone from the Water Department come out to your home or business to perform the inspection for you. Please contact Mr. Michael Skorupa, Assistant DPW Superintendent at (201) 825-3400 Ex. 274 to schedule an appointment.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I DISCOVER I HAVE A LSL?**

If you have a LSL, it will eventually need to be replaced. Once you have completed the visual inspection and submitted the on-line Inspection Form to the Borough of Ramsey, the information will be recorded and entered into our LSL database. Depending upon the information shown in the survey, the Borough may contact you to review the survey with you and obtain further information. As part of Ramsey's system-wide LSL Replacement program your water service line will be categorized for replacement by the Borough's contractor. Replacement of LSLs will be performed in phases over a period of time. You will eventually receive further information about the replacement of your LSL when the work has been scheduled by the Borough.

Please visit other portions of Ramsey's Website to obtain more information about Lead in Drinking Water including; Health Effects of Lead, Sources of Lead in Drinking Water, Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water.

For more information about Ramsey's LSL investigation program, please contact Mr. Michael Skorupa, Assistant DPW Superintendent at (201) 825-3400 Ext. 274.