

GET THE LEAD OUT



HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR MANDATORY WATER SERVICE LINE INSPECTION?

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)

Lead levels in drinking water were first regulated by the EPA in the late 1980's. In 2021, the EPA released updates to regulations addressing lead levels in water provided by public drinking water systems. The first step of the updated regulations requires the City of Towanda to create an inventory of all water lines in their service area.

The City of Towanda must develop a lead service line replacement plan which includes an inventory of all pipelines, public and private, in the service area. The City of Towanda needs your help in creating this inventory.

Here's how to conduct your mandatory water service line inspection:

- Review the information on the back of this fact sheet to learn how to check your water service lines to determine if they are lead-based.
- Use the online reporting tool (<https://arccg.is/1Srm191>) to submit your findings. Access the tool by scanning the QR code on the back of this fact sheet.
- Not sure if your water service lines are lead or galvanized metal? No problem! You can contact the City of Towanda office with any questions or assistance filling out your service line inventory report.

Still have questions?

Call the City of Towanda at (316) 536-2243 to learn more about the Lead Service Line Inventory project or if you need assistance filling out your survey.

The Dangers of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment and can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead plumbing fixtures are a major source of lead entering the body.

Lead can:

- Damage the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body.
- Cause the greatest risk to infants, young children, and pregnant women – lowered IQ in children has been directly linked to the effects of lead on the brain.
- Enter a child's bloodstream during pregnancy from the mother's bones if she has been exposed to high levels, which may affect the child's brain development or cause other health concerns.
- Be stored in the bones and its impacts can be released later in life.
- Cause significantly greater risk to adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure than healthy adults, even if exposed to low levels.

In older homes and buildings (built prior to 1988), lead can leach into the tap water from water service lines or solder at plumbing joints and fixtures. This can eventually become a significant source of lead exposure.

WHAT'S IN YOUR LINE?

To find out if you have a copper, lead, or galvanized steel service line on your property, you (or your landlord) can perform an inspection on where it connects to the water meter in your home. Read the steps below to help you determine the water service line material on your property.



Steps to Check Your Service Line Material

- 1 Find the water shut-off valve on your property – likely located in your basement or utility closet.
- 2 Look for the pipe that comes through the outside wall or floor of your home that connects the water meter to your home or building.
- 3 If the pipe is painted, use sandpaper or a key to expose a small section of the metal.
- 4 Determine your service line material using the reference guide to the right.
- 5 Send us your results using the QR code to the right (preferred method) or submit the Water Line Inspection Form (found at the bottom of this page) in writing to the The City of Towanda.

Unsure or Need Help Determining Your Service Line Material Type?

If you need assistance determining your water service line material or you cannot access the online self-reporting tool, contact The City of Towanda by calling (316) 536-2243.

What You'll Need

- A house key or coin
- A strong refrigerator magnet



Galvanized Steel

Magnet **will** stick.
Is a dull grey color.



Lead

Magnet will **not** stick.
Is a grey or silver color.



Copper

Magnet will **not** stick.
Is a tarnished penny color.



Plastic

Magnet will **not** stick.
Is usually blue, black, or white in color.

Self-Reporting Tool



Submit your findings from your water line inspection to the online self-reporting tool, or complete the form below. This information will be added to the overall water line inventory database.

Scan the QR code above with your smart phone's camera or visit <https://arcg.is/1Srm191> to access the self-reporting tool.

Water Line Inspection Form

Use this form to complete your mandatory water service line inspection. Once you have filled in all the information, mail the completed form to The City of Towanda office at PO Box 160, 110 S 3rd St., Towanda, KS 67144 **ASAP**.

Name (Property Owner): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Property Address: _____ Account Number*: _____

Occupancy Type (Circle one)*: I am a tenant on this property I am the property owner

Service Line Material (Circle one): Lead Galvanized Steel Copper Plastic

**Optional questions to answer*

Unsure or Need Help Determining Your Service Line Material Type? Contact the City of Towanda with questions.