

# TOWN OF MOUNTAIN CITY

## Service Line Inventory Frequently Asked

### Useful Acronyms:

<b>CWS</b>	Community Water System	<b>LSLR</b>	Lead Service Line Replacement
<b>GRR</b>	Galvanized Requiring Replacement	<b>NTNCWS</b>	Non-Transient Non-Community Water System
<b>LCR</b>	Lead and Copper Rule	<b>Pb</b>	Lead
<b>LCRR</b>	Lead and Copper Rule Revisions	<b>POU</b>	“Point of Use” water filter
<b>LCRI</b>	Lead and Copper Rule Improvements	<b>PWS</b>	Public Water System
<b>LSL</b>	Lead Service Line	<b>TNCWS</b>	Transient Non-Community Water System
<b>LSLI</b>	Lead Service Line Inventory		

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**1. Does the inventory require the material identification of both the water system owned (public owned) and customer owned (privately owned) portions of a service line?**

Yes, both public and privately owned portions of the service are required to be identified.

**2. Is the water system responsible for replacing the privately owned part of a service line?**

The water system is not responsible for replacing the privately owned service line. The water system can offer to replace the customer's part of the lead service line, but the customer can refuse to have it replaced or can replace it on their own.

**3. Will the water system be required to pay for the replacement of a privately owned service line?**

The water system is not required to pay for the replacement of a privately owned lead or galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service line. The water system can provide funding for the privately owned service line replacement by using funds provided by the federal government or financing options from the water system, such as a payment plan.

**4. Where is the physical boundary between the publicly owned and privately owned part of a service line?**

This will depend on each individual case, but the most common transition between the public and private parts of a service line in Tennessee is after the water meter.

**5. When is the initial lead service line inventory required to be submitted to the state?**

The initial lead service line inventory is required to be submitted on or before Oct. 16, 2024.

**6. Does the lead service line inventory have to be 100% completed by October 16, 2024?**

No, but the initial lead service line inventory must include as many lead service lines as possible.

**7. What information can water systems use to determine the material composition of a service line?**

Water systems should first look at their records to make determinations. Records include construction and plumbing codes, distribution system maps and drawings, historical records, meter installation records, as-built plans and specifications, inspection records, tap cards, meter cards, etc. Predictive modelling can use information found from the sources listed above to find areas more likely to have lead service lines. This same information may reveal the material composition of some service lines. Once the material composition is known, add it to the lead service line inventory. Physical verification may be needed if records cannot determine the service line's material composition. Physical verification can include resident surveys or water system staff inspections of meters and service line premises entry after customer permission is received. The last method for verification of a service line material is traditional mechanical excavation or vacuum-excavation.

**8. Is visual conformation required for all service lines?**

No, records can verify lead service lines in many instances, as well as verify if the service line is not lead. Records for identification must be dependable.

**9. What are the material categories required for an initial lead service line inventory?**

The first is "lead," defined as the service line is composed of lead. Next, is "Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR)," defined as a galvanized service line that has had a lead service line upstream of it at any time during the past. If the water system cannot verify that there has never been a lead service upstream of the galvanized service, it must be categorized as GRR. The third category is "Non-lead," defined as no lead present in the service line (water system or customer owned portions). The final category is "Unknown Possibly Lead," which is defined as a service line that has unknown materials and could possibly be lead.

**10. Does the lead service line inventory need to be publically accessible?**

Yes. For water systems less than or equal to 50,000 in population, the LSLI has to be made available upon request. For water systems greater than 50,000 in population, the LSLI must be made available online.

**11. Is a lead service line inventory required to be updated?**

Yes. The inventory must be updated according to the lead and copper sampling schedule the water system is currently on; this can be annually or triennially. Updates are not required more frequently than annually.

**12. Does a water system's personnel have authority to enter homes to verify a customer owned service line?**

This will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Some water systems have the authority to enter. For example, if meters are located in the residence, staff can enter for periodic meter reading or meter replacement. Other water systems do not have authority, but can obtain permission from the homeowner. Homeowners, however, can refuse entry. In this case, it may be appropriate to provide instructional materials to aid the homeowner in conducting a self-inspection.

**13. How can a residential customer determine the material used in the portion of the service line they own?**

A customer can look at the service line entering the residence. Normally, look where it comes through the foundation or basement wall. Once the service entry is identified, a visual inspection can be done to determine if the material is a blue-gray color.

**14. What does a lead service line look like?**

A lead service line is blue-gray in color and can have a wiped lead joint where it connects to a fitting.

**15. What is a scratch test?**

Lead is a soft bendable metal. Because it is soft, it can easily be scratched. When scratched, if the scratch mark appears shiny, like a new nickel, it is most likely lead. Further investigation with a magnet can help verify if the material is lead. If the magnet does not stick to the pipe, it is most likely lead.

**16. Is there funding available for creating an initial lead service line inventory?**

Yes. The Department of Natural Resources' Financial Assistance Center has funding available through both the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that can be used for the initial lead service line inventory.

**17. When did the Safe Drinking Water Act enact the lead ban?**

The federal lead ban became effective June 19, 1986.

**18. When did the lead ban become effective in Tennessee?**

The lead ban in Tennessee became effective July 1, 1988.

**19. What is premise plumbing?**

Premises plumbing consists of the pipes inside a residence that convey water to points of usage, such as kitchens, bathrooms, sinks, laundry, etc.

**20. Is premise plumbing required to be replaced if it contains lead?**

No.

**21. What is the transitional point from a service line to premise plumbing?**

The normal point a service line ends and premises plumbing begins is the shut-off valve immediately after the service line enters the structure.

**22. What types of public water systems are required to create an initial lead service line inventory?**

All Community and Non-transient Non-community (NTNC) water systems are required to create an inventory.