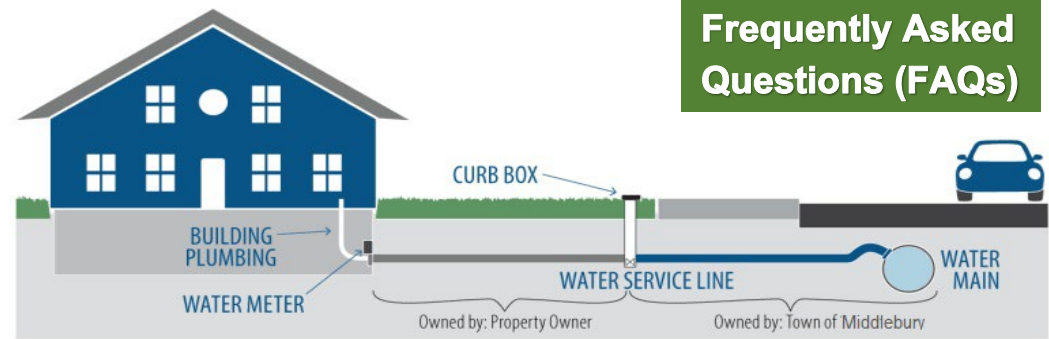




# Water Service Line Inventory

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Please note: This diagram is a generic representation. Variations may apply.

### 1. What is a water service line?

Water service lines are small pipes that carry water from the Town of Middlebury's Water Department water mains, located in the streets, into individual homes and buildings. Please see the sketch of the house and water lines.

### 2. How do I find my water service line?

You can find your water service line by first finding the water meter, which measures the amount of water you use, typically in your basement. The water service line is the pipe that connects the water meter to the water main in the street. You will see it come out of the meter and go into the floor or wall.

### 3. Who owns the water service line on my property?

The Water Department owns the service line from the main in the street to the curb box, typically at the property line or in the sidewalk/driveway. The property owner owns the service line from the curb box to the meter inside the home.

### 4. What materials can service lines be made of?

Service lines can be made of lead, galvanized steel, plastic, brass, copper, cast iron, or ductile iron.

### 5. What other sources of lead are in my home?

Other sources of lead can include plumbing fixtures (faucets, valves, fittings, etc.), indoor copper plumbing pipes with lead solder, and lead paint.

### 6. How can the water service lines or plumbing fixtures in some homes have lead?

Lead was commonly used for water service lines until 1960 and in household plumbing fixtures and solder until 1986, when it was banned. From 1986 to 2014, plumbing fixtures could have up to 8% lead and still be called "lead free." However, current standards for "lead free" fixtures allow no more than 0.25% lead content.

Many homes and buildings, especially those built before 1986, may have service lines and/or internal plumbing and fixtures that are made of or have lead content.

### 7. How does lead get into the drinking water?

When water leaves the Water Department's water treatment plant, it meets all state and federal standards. Lead may enter your drinking water from pipes that bring water from the Town's water main to your home or from your own private plumbing.

### 8. How do I know if I have a lead or galvanized steel service line that needs replacement?

The Water Department is required by federal law to submit a water service line inventory by October 16, 2024. You will begin to see crews out in your area working to identify your home's service line material. There is no cost to you for the inspection of the pipe material in your yard. The Water Department will repair and return the property as close to what it was before the inspection. The inspection spot will be filled and allowed to settle, then filled to grade and then seed and straw.

### 9. Is my water safe?

Yes. To keep our residents safe the Town has been utilizing specific water chemistry to coat the pipes and service in our system to help prevent corrosion, allowing for safe clean drinking water. Required annual lead testing has consistently shown our water is free of lead and safe to drink.

Middlebury Water Department is committed to protecting the health of our residents from hazards caused by lead and lead service lines.