# Preparing a Service Line Inventory:

## Background

* Beginning in **June 1986,** the Safe Drinking Water Act prohibited the use of any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting or fixture, any solder, or any flux in the installation or repair of a PWS that was not “lead free.”
* Effective **January 4, 2014,** lead free was amended to no more than 0.2% lead content with respect to solder and flux, and a weighted average of 0.25% lead content with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures.
* **Lead service line means a service line made of lead**, which connects the water main to the building inlet. A lead service line may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both.
* **A galvanized service line is considered a lead service line if it ever was or is currently downstream of any lead service line or service line of unknown material.**
* If the only lead piping serving the home or building is a **lead gooseneck, pigtail, or connector**, and it is not a galvanized service line that is considered a lead service line, the service line **is not a lead service line.**

## How to Get Started

* Determine if any service lines were installed 30 years ago or longer. In 1986 Congress prohibited the use of pipes, solder or flux that were not “lead free”. **Texas adopted the lead reduction in 1988.**
* Determine if any short pieces of pipe, called goosenecks or pigtails, were used to connect the water mains to customer service lines.
* Lead pipe was typically installed in smaller service line diameters. Identify service lines that are **2-inches or less in diameter**; however, there are rare reports of lead service lines that were installed **up to 3-inches in diameter.**
* Physically inspect the piping. Lead is a dull gray color and very soft. If scraped with a key or coin, it will turn a bright silver color. Even a strong magnet will not stick to lead.

## Where to Find Information on Service Line Materials

* Tax assessor records indicating when buildings were constructed.
* Utility Standard Specifications in place at time of service line and/or appurtenance design and installation.
* All plumbing codes, permits, and records in the files of the building department(s) which indicate the service line materials used to connect water system- and customer-owned structures to the distribution system.
* All water system records, including distribution system maps and drawings, historical records on each service connection, meter installation records, water main rehabilitation and replacement, historical capital improvement or master plans, and standard operating procedures.
* All inspections and records of the distribution system that indicate the material composition of the service connections that connect a structure to the distribution system.
* Tap Cards or tickets from initial service installation.
* Historic water utility records.
* Plumbing permits for both new construction and repair/replacement activities.
* Visual confirmation of pipe material by plumbers or utility crews during maintenance or installation activities.