

Lead & Copper Supply Line Mapping Village of Plain City

Plain City's original water plant and distribution were built in the 1920's. Its current plant still resides in the original building. The treatment system was totally rebuilt in 1998, when a Tonka softening system was installed. The system consists of a dualator sand filter with a blower on top to remove sediment, iron, manganese, and sulfur. The filtered water is then pumped to one of four ion-exchange softeners by way of a high service pump. Each pump can pump a maximum flow of about 500 gpm, but the typical flow is set at 400 gpm. Softeners are regenerated after they treat 95,000 gallons of water, as determined by a flow meter on the discharge of each softener. Plain City currently uses around 300,000 gallons of water per day, so each softener usually regenerates two out of every three days. Plain City uses about 20 tons of salt every 10-14 days to accomplish this.

Plain City is a village divided. There is the older section of the village that is located primarily at the center of town at the intersections of Chillicothe St and Main St. This is the 'business district", but it only lasts for a few blocks in all directions. Many of these buildings have spaces above them that either were or still are apartments. The housing outside of the business district is the oldest in the village. Many of these houses had lead service lines when they were constructed. However, quite a few of these were replaced over the years as improvements were made to the distribution system or by homeowners as these pipes failed. It is even said that at one time several of the mains in the downtown area were made of logs that had been drilled out through the center. To the best of our knowledge, none of those are still being used.

There are several sections that are new enough that lead is not a concern. They are as follows:

- 1. Copperfield area (Lantern Lane, Willow Creek Drive, Carriage Lane, Hawthorne Drive, Dickens Lane, Copper Lame, Plumwood Court, Dogwood Court, Cottonwood Court, Buckboard Lane, Coachman Drive, Buggywhip Lane, and Doe Street);
- 2. Country Estates and Edgewater;
- 3. Harrington Drive, Weathervane Way, Wellsley Way, and Murlay Drive;
- 4. Willowbend Circle; and
- 5. Jefferson Avenue between West St. and Main Street.

Along Main Street, no houses or businesses were found that had lead service lines to the west of Park Street. Many of the service lines along this area were replaced in the early 1990's when a sewer separation project was completed. However, not every house was investigated and there is the possibility that some do have lead solder with copper plumbing.

The attached map is color-coded as follows:

Blue lines: The service lines and the interior plumbing were installed in the late 1990's or later. It is highly unlikely that there is any lead lines or lead solder in these areas.

Yellow lines: The service lines and /or the interior plumbing were most likely installed somewhere between 1960 and 1995. Many of the service lines have been replaced, but not all of them have been verified yet. The interior plumbing, if copper, would most likely have lead solder in it.

Red lines: There is a very high probability that the service line and /or the interior plumbing contain lead if it is the original plumbing. Although many of the service lines have been replaced, Village employees have identified many houses in the area that still have the original lead service line.

In 2017, the Village will undertake three projects to help identify lead lines in the distribution system. The first is an automatic meter reading project. All houses and businesses with older meters will have them replaced this year. When this project begins, Village employees will also begin documentation of the materials used for all of the service lines. They will also be asking the residents about the plumbing in each house / business building.

The second project will be the beginning of a geographic information system (GIS). Plain City will start gathering data to develop a GIS, including marking of all meter pits and shut-off valves. As these are found, it is our intent to also enter information about the material used for the service lines. As these lines are replaced, we will also enter that information.

The third project is the replacement of the water mains on Gay Street, Maple Street, Shepper Avenue, and Converse Avenue. Over the past three years, these have been our 'problem areas' when it comes to main line breaks. These four streets are also in the older section of town where it is more likely that lead service lines may still be in place. If any are found, they will be eliminated.

Plain City is hoping these three projects will give us much more insight as to where lead service lines are still located.