

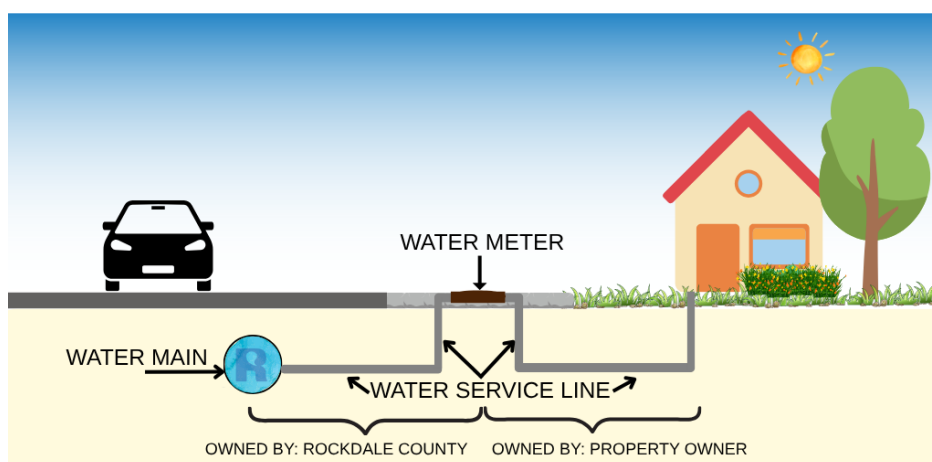
Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Water Service Line?

A water service line is the pipe that brings drinking water from the main water line (typically located beneath the street) into your home or building. This line is divided into two parts:

- **The public portion**, which runs from the main water line to the water meter near your property line. That portion is maintained by Rockdale County Water Resources.
- **The private portion** stretches from the water meter to the plumbing inside your home or building. This part of the service line, along with all interior pipes (known as premise plumbing), is the responsibility of the property owner.

Understanding which parts of the system are publicly or privately maintained helps clarify ownership and responsibility for maintenance or repairs



Who Is Responsible for the Water Service Line on My Property?

In Rockdale County, the responsibility for water service lines is shared. The County manages the portion of the line that runs from the water main (typically under the road) to the water meter. Property owners are responsible for the section that connects from the meter into the home's interior plumbing.

Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can enter drinking water through:

- **Service lines made of lead or galvanized steel**, especially when water remains unused in pipes for long periods.
- **Older plumbing fixtures** (faucets, valves, fittings) installed before 2014, which may contain lead.
- **Copper piping with lead solder**, commonly used in homes built before 1989.

To learn more about potential household lead sources, visit the U.S. EPA's page: [Basic Information About Lead in Drinking Water](#)



Why Might My Home's Plumbing Contain Lead?

- Lead was a common material for water service lines until the 1960s and for plumbing solder and fixtures until it was restricted in 1988.
- From 1988 to 2014, fixtures could still contain up to 8% lead and be labeled "lead-free."
- Homes built before 1988 are more likely to have lead-containing materials.

How Do I Know If My Service Line Is Made of Lead?

- Homes built before Georgia banned lead in 1989 may still have lead service lines.
- Rockdale County may provide guidance or inspection tools to help homeowners identify pipe materials. You can often identify it yourself by locating the pipe that enters your home and checking its appearance and characteristics.
- If you're unsure, contact Rockdale Water Resources for support or submit photos for review.

Is My Water Safe to Drink?

Yes. Water leaving Rockdale County's treatment facilities meets all federal and state standards and is lead-free at the source. However, lead can enter drinking water through your home's plumbing or service line materials. Water sitting in pipes for several hours is more likely to absorb lead from those materials.

What Materials Are Service Lines Made Of?

Service lines in Rockdale County may be made from:

- **Copper**
- **Plastic (PVC or PEX)**
- **Galvanized steel**
- **Lead (in older homes)**
- **Brass, cast iron, or ductile iron**

How Can I Test My Water for Lead?

A list of Georgia-certified laboratories for lead testing can be found on the [Georgia Environmental Protection Division website](#).

Is Any Level of Lead Safe?

No. Health experts agree that there is no safe level of lead exposure, particularly for children and pregnant women.

How Can I Tell If There's Lead in My Indoor Plumbing?

- Homes built before 1990 may have lead solder or fixtures containing lead.





- A licensed plumber can inspect your pipes.
- You can also use an EPA-approved lead test kit, listed here: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-test-kits>

What If I Can't Identify My Service Line Material?

You can contact Rockdale Water Resources for assistance. Photos of the service line can help technicians identify the material.

How Can I Reduce Exposure to Lead in Water?

- **Flush your pipes** by running cold water for 3–5 minutes if it's been unused for several hours.
- Use a **certified water filter** designed to remove lead (look for NSF/ANSI 53 certification).
- Choose **lead-free plumbing fixtures** when renovating or replacing components.
- Always use **cold tap water** for drinking, cooking, or preparing baby formula.
- Clean faucet aerators every 6 months to remove potential debris.

Is It Safe to Bathe in Water That Contains Lead?

Yes. Lead is not absorbed through the skin, so bathing and showering are considered safe—even if the water has elevated lead levels.

Where Can I Get More Information?

- **EPA Lead and Copper Rule:** <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>
- **Georgia EPD Drinking Water Resources:** <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/drinking-water>

Will Rockdale County Replace My Lead Service Line?

Rockdale County is conducting inventory and assessments to identify service line materials. Plans for replacing customer-owned portions of lead service lines may be shared as the program develops. Stay tuned for updates or contact Rockdale Water Resources for more details.

