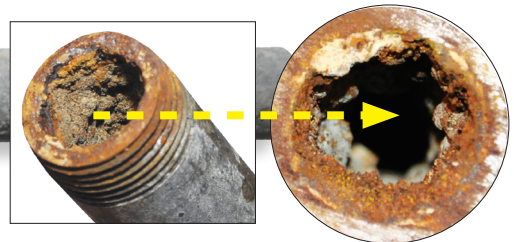


Water quality can change as it leaves the distribution system and enters private-side plumbing in homes and businesses. Household galvanized pipes are old, iron pipes that can affect water quality as it travels through your home and to your taps. Installed in many homes that were built before the 1960s, galvanized plumbing is known to build-up iron corrosion scales causing discolored water and lowered water pressure. DC Water delivers high quality drinking water through a series of underground pipes and encourages customers to identify household plumbing to ensure high quality water reaches your tap.

**Potential Lead Release in Homes with Galvanized Plumbing**

In households that have or once had a lead service line, galvanized plumbing can release lead in tap water. This is the result of a lead service line releasing lead over many years and accumulating on the corroded inside surfaces of household galvanized pipes. Lead release from galvanized pipes can vary from home to home. For more information, please visit our Water Quality Website at [www.dewater.com/waterquality](http://www.dewater.com/waterquality).

**How can I identify household galvanized plumbing?**



- Scratch the outside of the pipe. The scratched area will be a silver-gray color and the pipe will have threads on each end.
- Use a magnet - strong magnets will typically stick to galvanized pipes.
- Galvanized pipes are old, corroded iron pipes.

**How can I identify household copper plumbing?**

- Scratch the outside of the pipe. The scratched area will have the color of a copper penny.



**How can I identify household plastic plumbing?**

- Plastic pipe is usually white in color and will have a clamp where it is joined to the water supply piping.



**What should I do if I have household galvanized plumbing?**

- A plumber can advise you of the type of pipes in your home.
- Residents should consider replacing their plumbing if they have corroded, galvanized plumbing.
- If pipe replacement is not an option: *DC Water recommends a treatment device installed at the tap or use a filtration pitcher. Be sure to purchase a treatment device certified by NSF International. You can search the NSF International website for certified drinking water treatment devices at:*



*Be sure to purchase a treatment device certified by NSF International. You can search the NSF International website for certified drinking water treatment devices at: [www.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU](http://www.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU). Please be advised that DC Water does not certify or endorse specific home drinking water treatment devices.*

**Where can I find additional information?**

- Visit the DC Water website at [www.dewater.com/waterquality](http://www.dewater.com/waterquality). (Click *Water Quality at Home > Household Plumbing*)
- Contact our Water Quality Division at 202-612-3440 or [waterquality@dewater.com](mailto:waterquality@dewater.com).