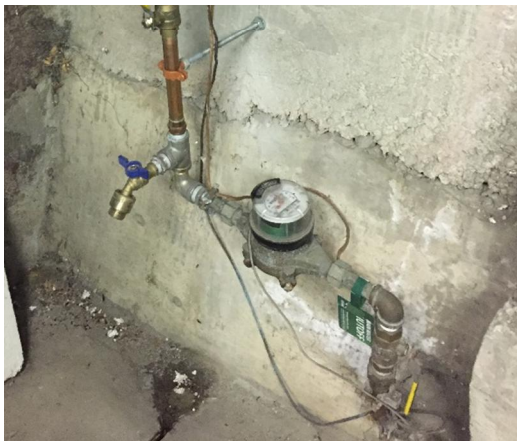
CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER RESOURCES

235 Penny Lane | P O Box 878
Burlington, VT 05402

P: 802.863.4501
F: 802.864.8233

E: water-resources@burlingtonvt.gov
www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/water

A water service (or lateral) is the pipe that connects the Burlington water main to the property. In Burlington, they are constructed from three materials: plastic, copper or galvanized steel. The water service enters the property through the basement foundation or wall (usually on the street side) and connects to the water meter, like below.



You can determine the material type of your water service by 1) looking at the color: a plastic service will appear blue, copper will be greenish (if oxidized) or copper colored whereas a galvanized service will appear grey; or 2) testing whether a heavy duty magnet sticks to the pipe (not a fitting) because a magnet will stick to galvanized steel but not copper or plastic.

A water service constructed from galvanized steel pre-dates 1960 and has a higher probability of leaking or breaking and over time results in reduced flow capacity (low pressure) due to build-up of deposits in the line.

We recommend that you consider replacing your galvanized water service before it becomes compromised. If your pipe is galvanized then contact us to schedule an appointment for a free replacement estimate. Per Burlington City Ordinance (31-19), we will pay for 50% of the replacement cost from the water main to the property line (generally the curb stop) and the property owner is responsible for both the remaining 50% and 100% of the replacement cost from the property line into the home. Please note that all water line work must be completed by Water Resources unless otherwise approved by us.