

Effective Date	Item	Description of change
September 1, 1973	1973 Edition, Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (1970 BOCA Basic Plumbing Code with 1972 Accumulative Supplement)	The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) was first adopted in 1973 and replaced all local building codes. Some localities were granted an extension on the effective date of the first (1973) edition of the USBC; however, the extended date was September 1, 1975, so all Virginia localities enforced the USBC as of that date. Allowed lead water service pipe.
August 1, 1975	1975 USBC Accumulative Supplement (1975 BOCA Basic Plumbing Code)	Allowed lead water service pipe.
August 1, 1978	1978 USBC Accumulative Supplement (1978 BOCA Basic Plumbing Code)	Lead water service pipe not allowed.
July 16, 1982	1981 Edition, USBC	Included "grace period" language for "Any building that was subject to previous editions of the USBC, and for which a building permit has been issued or on which construction has commenced, or for which working drawings have been prepared in the year prior to the effective date of this edition of the USBC shall remain subject to the edition of the USBC in effect at the time of such issuance or commencement of construction".
April 1, 1986	1984 Edition, USBC (1984 BOCA Basic Plumbing Code)	Limits solder and flux to no more than 0.2% lead in water service or water distribution piping.
June 19, 1988	Public Law 99-339 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986, also known as the Federal Lead Ban	On June 19, 1986, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act, prohibiting the use of pipes, solder or flux that were not "lead free" in public water systems or plumbing in facilities providing water for human consumption. At the time "lead free" was defined as solder and flux with no more than 0.2% lead and pipes with no more than 8% lead. Enforcement began 24 months from enactment – June 19, 1988.
March 1, 1991	1990 Edition, USBC (1990 BOCA National Plumbing Code)	Limited water pipes to 8% lead. This included all water service pipe, water distribution pipe, fittings, valves and faucets.
January 4, 2014	Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, Public Law 111-380	Changes the definition of "lead free" from 8% to 0.25% for pipes, pipe fittings, and components, based on a weighted average of the wetted surfaces.
September 4, 2018	2015 Edition, USBC (2015 International Plumbing Code)	Limits water pipes to 0.25% lead. This includes all water service pipe, water distribution pipe, fittings, valves and faucets.

Notes:

1. The USBC applies to “service pipes” and building premise plumbing. Likely this means the private portion of the service lines or after the water meter. The USBC is unlikely to apply to the service line owned by the utility, since the utility frequently has their own standards.
2. The USBC does not apply to or address goosenecks on the utility side.
3. The Federal Lead Ban applies to premise plumbing, service lines, and goosenecks.
4. To determine the applicable USBC edition, before July 16, 1982, compare the service line install date to the USBC edition effective date. After July 16, 1982, compare the permit date to the USBC edition effective date.
5. BOCA = "Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc."
6. “Water distribution pipe” in the USBC refers to water plumbing within a building, and not the distribution system pipe of a community waterworks.
7. Added Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, Public Law 111-380, effective January 4, 2014.

Guidance for use of Lead Chronology

1. The USBC applies to “service pipes” and building premise plumbing. Generally, waterworks owners may consider the private (homeowner) portion of service lines installed on or after August 1, 1978 as non-lead, with corroborating evidence.
2. The USBC does not apply to utility owned service lines. Generally, waterworks owners must refer to service line utility standards and specifications or other sources of information to determine the allowable materials.
3. The Federal Lead Ban, effective June 19, 1988, applies to waterworks components, and both the utility side and the private side of service lines. Generally, waterworks owners may consider service lines, goosenecks and connections installed after June 19, 1988 as non-lead, with corroborating evidence.
4. Corroborating evidence provides additional information to demonstrate that the requirements of the USBC and Federal Lead Ban were implemented and followed in the community and timeframe in question. Examples of corroborating evidence include the following:
 - a. Physical inspections to determine service line materials (a minimum of 5 service lines and no less than 1% of the service lines installed in the period 24 months after the effective date of the USBC edition or Federal Lead Ban; if there are fewer than 5 service lines, then all service lines are to be physically inspected.)
 - b. Water quality sampling (a minimum of 5 service lines and no less than 1% of the service lines installed in the period 24 months after the effective date of the USBC edition or Federal Lead Ban; if there are fewer than 5 service lines, then all service lines are to be sampled.)
 - c. Records showing specific service line materials such as:
 - i. Service line installation records;
 - ii. Inspection and maintenance records, including replacement or repairs of service lines and water main projects;
 - iii. Plumbing permits;
 - iv. Meter installation records; and
 - v. Distribution system maps and drawings, including as-built drawings.
 - d. Interviews with experienced people, including distribution staff, building inspectors and plumbers with personal knowledge of the materials used.