

How to Collect Investigatory Lead Water Samples



If your child care program discovers lead ≥ 15 ppb at a fixture, further investigation will be handled by the Maine CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit.

However, if lead is detected at lower levels these steps can be followed to identify the source of the lead and can help in determining how to remove the lead.

It is recommended that you order two (2) investigatory sample bottles for every fixture with elevated lead levels, and one (1) for the service line bringing water into your building.

Investigatory samples center on three activities.

- **Confirmation Samples (C)** may be used to confirm high lead results from a specific fixture or to determine if remediation/mitigation actions were effective. A confirmation sample should be collected for each fixture with elevated lead.
- **30-Second Flush Samples (F)** help determine if the plumbing behind a fixture is contributing lead. A 30-second flush sample should be collected for each fixture with elevated lead.
- **Supply Line Samples (S)** are collected for each supply line that connects a building to a well or water main in the street.

Step 1

Organize Your Bottles and Chain-of-Custody

Upon receiving your request for sample bottles, Maine CDC's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) will send you a kit containing 250mL sample bottles, a Chain-of-Custody form (COC) and a postage paid return label.

Keep the COC with you as you collect your samples; you will be recording information for each fixture from which a sample is taken.

Step 2

Prepare Your Water Fixtures

Before you sample, **make sure each fixture is out of service for a minimum of 8 hours and a maximum of 18 hours** so water may remain unused in the pipes. We recommend:

- sampling first thing in the morning; or
- sampling on a day when the building is empty; and/or
- covering fixtures with a plastic bag, secured with tape, and posting a "Do Not Use" sign at each location.



Remember:

- Do NOT run the water prior to sampling.
- Do NOT remove aerators or attachments prior to sampling.

Step 3

Collect a Confirmation Sample

A confirmation sample is a first draw sample that is collected after water has remained unused for at least 8 hours. It is used to confirm the initial result was accurate or to verify that a fix that was made has lowered the lead level.

1. Remove the cap on the sample bottle.
2. Hold the bottle in position under the fixture so water will flow directly in and turn on the tap.
3. Fill the bottle all the way to the neck, leaving a little bit of room so that the lab can add preservative.
4. Secure the cap.



5. Note on the chain-of-custody form that this is a "C" sample under sample type, as well as the date and time the water was last used and the date and time the sample was collected.



Step 4

Collect a 30-Second Flush Sample

A 30-second flush sample will ensure that the water you are collecting is from the plumbing behind the fixture.

1. Remove the cap on the bottle.
2. Turn on the fixture and run the water for **30 seconds**.



3. Hold the bottle in position under the fixture so water will flow directly in and turn on the tap.



4. Fill the bottle all the way to the neck, leaving a little bit of room so that the lab can add preservative.

5. Secure the cap.

6. Note on the chain-of-custody form that this is an "F" sample under sample type, as well as the date and time the water was last used and the date and time the sample was collected.

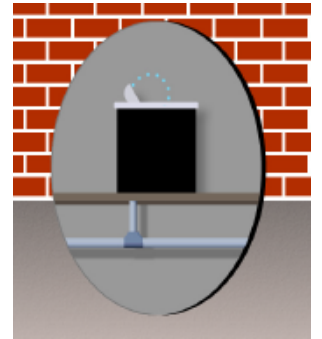


Step 5

Collect a Supply Line Sample

A supply line sample will ensure that the water you are collecting is from the supply line.

1. Find the fixture in your building that is closest to where the water supply line enters the building.



2. Remove the cap on the bottle.
3. Turn on the fixture and run the water for **3 minutes**.
4. Hold the bottle in position under the fixture so water will flow directly in and turn on the tap.
5. Fill the bottle all the way to the neck, leaving a little bit of room so that the lab can add preservative.
6. Secure the cap.



7. Note on the chain- of-custody form that this is a "S" sample under sample type, as well as the date and time the water was last used and the date and time the sample was collected.



Step 6

Mail Samples To The Lab

Once collected, samples must be delivered to the lab within 14 days. If samples are not delivered to the lab within the 14-day time frame the lab can not analyze them.

Samples should be delivered using the pre-paid postage stamp that comes in the kit. After analysis, HETL will provide your child care program with sample results.

For more information...

Maine CDC Drinking Water Program
286 Water Street, 3rd Floor
State House Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
(207) 287-2070
www.medwp.com

