



Sampling for Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities

The Meriden Water Division (MWD) has partnered with Arcadis, an engineering firm, to offer free water sampling to identify sources of lead in schools and licensed childcare facilities. The only way to know if there is lead in your drinking water is to test it!

Following Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, the MWD is offering to **test water samples from your facility for free.**

What to Expect From the Program



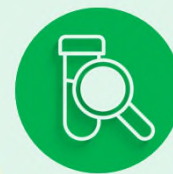
01 Program Interest Form

Fill out the program interest form at <https://forms.office.com/r/EYMRQuk1eU> to let us know if you are interested in participating by **February 1, 2026.**



02 Collect Your Water

Arcadis will coordinate a visit to your facility and provide all the water sample resources for you to collect samples from your facility.



03 Understand Your Results

We will share your results within 30 days of receiving them, along with different remediation options if lead is detected within your system.



Exposure to Lead Can Affect Your Health

Facilities may have lead-containing service lines, plumbing, and kitchen or bath fixtures. The most common exposure sources of lead is found in peeling paint and lead dust, which can be found in older buildings and fixtures. Exposure to lead can cause serious health problems in all age groups. Infants and children who have high lead exposure can suffer from decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems.



TAKE ACTION

Reduce the Risk of Lead in Your School or Childcare Facility



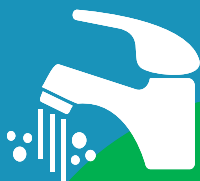
Did you know?



Boiling water does **NOT** remove lead!

FLUSH YOUR OUTLET

for at least 5 minutes before drinking or cooking to get rid of the stagnant water sitting in your outlets. This should be performed if the outlet had been unused for at least 6 hours (i.e., at the start of the day).



USE COLD TAP WATER

for drinking and preparing food. Hot water is more likely to contain lead than cold water.

Plumbing Tips

To Reduce Lead Exposure in Your Facility

REGULARLY REPLACE FILTERS

Common filters found in schools are Point-of-Use (POU) filters, which are found in drinking water fountains and bottle filler stations. These should be replaced to limit contaminants in the water.



CLEAN FAUCET AERATORS

and regularly replace them. Aerators can collect particles from lead plumbing and should be cleaned regularly. After removing the aerator, flush the cold water lines for 5 minutes.

Additional Resources:

[LeadFree | City of Meriden, CT](#)

- Connecticut Department of Public Health— information on lead in drinking water: [Fact Sheets, All Languages](#)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency – resources for EPA's 3Ts – Training, Testing, and Taking Action: <https://tinyurl.com/epa3Ts>
- Lead Hotline – Contact the National Lead Information at (800) 424-LEAD [5323]

