

Lead Exposure in Schools & Childcare Facilities: Understanding Results and Action Plan

Recommendations
to help keep lead out
of your tap water

Version 1.0
December 2025

Based on your
water sampling
results, you choose
what actions are
right for your facility.



Understanding your results

Each outlet, a location where water may be accessed for consumption, that is sampled at your facility will have a result shown in parts per billion (ppb.) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Regulations and Improvements (LCRR/I) Action Level for schools is 10 parts per billion, which is also recommended for childcare facilities.

Results are a snapshot in time: A water outlet's lead level may vary over time due to factors like the time water is in contact with the pipes and water usage.

Recordkeeping: **Retain sampling records for a minimum of 10 years.** CT DPH may request copies of your sampling results.

Results Above 10 ppb

Immediate response when Action Level exceeds 10 ppb:

1 Shut off or disconnect water outlet and post signs

Post clear and accessible notices near water outlets where water should not be used for drinking, drink preparation, or cooking. Include where to find alternate sources of drinking water.



Do not use for drinking



No usar para consumo

2 Investigate the sources of lead and develop an action plan

- Locating the source of the lead will guide additional decision-making.
- Look at plumbing records for dates, locations, and materials. Research water outlet details with manufacturer serial numbers.
- Look through your facility to check and clean aerators, and check / replace filters as well as test visible pipe, solder, and brass with lead confirmation tests.

Results Between 1 – 10 ppb

Still require action
(see details on the following page)

Results Less than 1 ppb

Maintain as normal



Corrective Actions to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

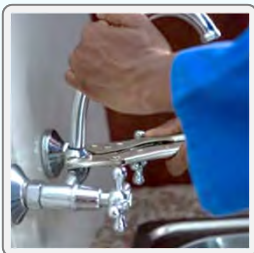


After conducting immediate actions for elevated lead levels, or if samples are above 1 ppb, evaluate options for corrective action:



No and Low-Cost Solutions

- Permanent water outlet/fixture removal
- Clean aerators and change filters
- Practice routine flushing (e.g., after vacations and long weekends)
- Use only certified lead-free plumbing materials
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for water softener settings
- Let water run for 30-60 seconds or until cold after periods of non-use



Replace or Retrofit Water Outlets

Replace older water outlets with versions that are equipped with filters certified to reduce lead or with lead-free faucets. Filters need to be replaced regularly according to manufacturer's instructions to be effective. It may be possible to retrofit existing water outlets with certified filters and updated lead-free components.



Replace or Bypass Lead Plumbing

If you find sources of lead in building plumbing (lead pipe, lead solder, old brass fixtures, fittings, or valves), consider replacing components or bypassing those sections of plumbing. This could include permanent water outlet removal. Planning more extensive plumbing work alongside other building renovations may be best.



Replace the Service Line

Lead service lines are more likely in smaller buildings built before the 1950s. When present, they typically contribute to increased lead in water. Larger buildings usually have bigger service lines that were never made of lead.

Retest



We recommend retesting each water outlet after implementing routine water practices or making plumbing changes. Retesting allows you to evaluate the effects of your actions on lead levels. Water outlets must test below the EPA Action Level before they are returned to use.





Establish Routine Water Practices

Develop a Water Management Program to address exposure to lead as well as other environmental hazards such as bacteria in drinking water. Consider the effect of routine water practices on lead levels before completing more extensive plumbing work.



Routinely Flush Your Water Outlets

“Flushing” means running fast, cold water from a water outlet. Flushing gets rid of water that has been sitting in pipes and water outlets. Flushing won’t require installation of equipment. Without the work of a plumber, it can limit exposure to lead and promote overall building water quality.

Learn more: epa.gov/safewater/3Ts and Search for “*Flushing Best Practices*”.

Always Use Cold Water



Only use cold water for cooking and drinking, including preparing baby formula and other drinks.

Good to know: **Boiling water does not remove lead!**



Clean Aerators & Drinking Water Fountains

Aerators, also called faucet screens, can trap lead. Then they can release lead like a tea bag in water over time. Disassemble and soak screens in vinegar and then scrub the screens with a toothbrush. Create a **cleaning schedule** for drinking water fountains and aerators and establish a record to document when the fountains are cleaned.

