

## How Do I Collect Lead and Copper Tap Water Samples?

When collecting lead and copper tap samples, you must follow the procedures listed below:

- Always collect a 1-liter sample in one container only (e.g., do not split the sample between two containers).
- Always collect a first-draw sample from a tap where the water has stood in the pipes for at least 6 hours (e.g., no flushing, showering, etc.), except where noted below in the box titled: “Related Lead and Copper Rule Minor Revision LCRMR) Provisions”. However, make sure it is a tap that is used regularly, and not an abandoned or infrequently used tap.
- First-draw samples collected at single-family residences should always be drawn from the cold-water kitchen tap or bathroom tap.
- Samples must be taken from locations that see routine and regular use.
- Sample locations cannot be flushed prior to the 6 hour stand time.
- First-draw samples collected from buildings other than single-family homes should always be drawn from an interior tap from which water is typically taken for consumption.
- You may allow residents to collect sample, but you must supply the residents with instructions as to the sample collection procedures. Be sure to properly label sample bottles prior to distributing them to residents.
- As a general rule, you should collect your lead and copper tap water samples early in the monitoring period in case you exceed the lead or copper action level. This is because you will be required to also collect Water Quality Parameter (WQP) samples during the same monitoring period.
- After the sample is drawn, acidification of the sample should be completed by the laboratory personnel upon receipt of the sample, but in no case later than 14 days after sample collection. Neither the homeowner nor the sample collector should handle the nitric acid used for sample acidification.
- If you cannot gain access to an original sampling site during any repeat sample collections, you should collect a tap water sample from another site which meets the same targeting criteria as the original site. The replacement site should be located within reasonable proximity of the original site. (Note: The State of Vermont requires prior notification and approval of any changes in sampling sites.)

### **Related LCRMR Provision**

If you are an NTNCWS or CWS (such as a prison or hospital) that does not have enough inside taps where the water stands unused for at least 6 hours, the LCRMR allow you to use inside taps that are the most likely to have remained unused for the longest period of time.

**Please check with the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division before collecting any non-first draw samples.**

## Directions for Homeowner Lead & Copper Tap Sample Collection Procedures

These samples are being collected to determine the lead and copper levels in your tap water. This sampling effort is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont, and is being accomplished through the cooperation of homeowners and residents.

Collect samples from a tap that has not been used for a minimum of 6 hours. Because of this requirement, the best time to collect samples is either early in the morning or in the evening upon returning from work. Be sure to use taps that have been in general use by your household for the past few months. The collection procedure is described in more detail below.

1. Prior arrangements will be made with the customer to coordinate the sample collection event. Dates will be set for sample kit delivery and pick-up by water department staff.
2. There must be a minimum of 6 hours during which there is no water used from the tap the sample is taken from and any taps adjacent or close to that tap. The water department recommends that either early mornings or evenings upon returning home are the best sampling times to ensure that the necessary stagnant water conditions exist.
3. A kitchen or bathroom cold-water faucet is to be used for sampling. If you have water softeners on your kitchen taps, collect your sample from the bathroom tap that is not attached to a water softener, if possible. Place the opened sample bottle below the faucet and open the cold water tap, as if you were pouring a glass of water to drink. Fill the sample bottle to the line marked "1000-mL" and turn off the water.
4. Tightly cap the sample bottle and place in the sample kit provided. Please review the sample kit label at this time to ensure that all information contained on the label is correct.
5. **IF ANY PLUMBING REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE HOME SINCE THE PREVIOUS SAMPLING EVENT, NOTE THIS INFORMATION ON THE LABEL AS PROVIDED. ALSO IF YOUR SAMPLE WAS COLLECTED FROM A TAP WITH A WATER SOFTENER, NOTE THIS AS WELL.**
6. Place the sample kit outside of the residence in the location of the kit's delivery so that department staff may pick up the sample kit.
7. Results from this monitoring effort will be provided to participating customers when reports are generated for the State. However, if excessive lead and/or copper levels are found, immediate notification will be provided (usually 10 working days from the time of sample collection).

Call \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ if you have any questions regarding these instructions.

TO BE COMPLETED BY RESIDENT:

Water was last used:      Time \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sample was collected:      Time \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the above directions and have taken a tap sample in accordance with the directions.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date