



## Routine Practices to Reduce Lead Exposure

These practices can improve drinking water quality and should be done regularly as part of a school or childcare facility's overall water management program. They should not be conducted in the days prior to collecting water samples.

### Cleaning and Maintenance

- Clean aerators (faucet screens) and water fountain strainers every 6 months or after any construction that impacts the water service.
- Change point of use filters, such as those on a faucet or bottle filler on a regular basis, following manufacturer guidelines.
- Establish recordkeeping practices to help maintain a cleaning and filter changing schedule. Examples include displaying a printed schedule to record the scheduled and actual date of the last cleaning or filter change, and setting calendar reminders when these tasks are due.

### Water Usage

- Use cold water for food and beverage preparation. Hot water may increase lead levels from the tap. If hot water is needed, heat cold water from the tap using a stove or microwave.
- Flush all taps used for drinking or food preparation, particularly after weekends and vacations when water may have been stagnant. See more detailed [instructions](#).
- Post [signs](#) near taps that should not be used for consumption.

These practices were adapted from the [EPA's 3Ts program](#). For more information, see [EPA's Remediation & Establishing Routine Practices module](#).