

How to Collect Investigatory Lead Water Samples



Once the decision has been made for your school to begin lead remediation/mitigation efforts, further investigatory samples may be needed. Follow this sampling protocol to more specifically determine where lead is located in your building's plumbing. The *Lead Remediation & Mitigation* guide, provided by A&L Laboratory with your original sample results, may also be referenced as you enter this next phase.

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

Investigatory samples center on three activities.

- **Confirmation Samples** 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** 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** are collected for each supply line that connects a building(s) to a well or water main in the street.

Step 1

Organize Your Sample Kits and Chain-of-Custody

Upon receiving your order, A&L Lab will send you a kit containing 250mL sample bottles and a Chain-of-Custody form (COC).

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



Each sample bottle will be labeled with a unique identifier specific to a sampling fixture/location in your school. These identifiers are pre-determined by the lab, using information provided in your fixture inventory.



IMPORTANT:
Be sure to use the correct bottle
at each sampling location.

Step 2

Prepare Your Water Fixtures

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

- sending out a reminder to all staff;
- sampling on a day when the building is (mostly) empty; and/or
- covering fixtures with a plastic bag, secured with tape, and posting a "Do Not Use" sign at each location.



Do not remove aerators or attachments. Samples must be collected as the water would normally be used.

Before you take your confirmation sample...

Check your bottle and COC to confirm you are using the correct bottle with its corresponding sampling location.

Remember:

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



Step 3

Collect a Confirmation Water Sample

1. Remove the cap on the 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.



On the COC, locate the correct sampling location & bottle ID.

- Note the date and time that the water was last used. (This can be filled-in before sampling takes place.)
- Note the date and time the sample was collected.

Order Number	Site Name	Site Address	Site Contact	Site Phone	Site Email	Site Fax	Site Website	Site Manager	Site Status	Site Type	Site Category	Site Sub-Category	Site Description	Site Notes	Site Date	Site Time	Site User	Site Action	Site Comment
0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001	0001

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.

Before you take your 30-second flush sample...

Check your bottle and COC to confirm you are using the correct bottle with its corresponding sampling location and type.

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.

On the COC, locate the correct sampling location & bottle ID.

- Note the date and time the sample was collected.



Step 5

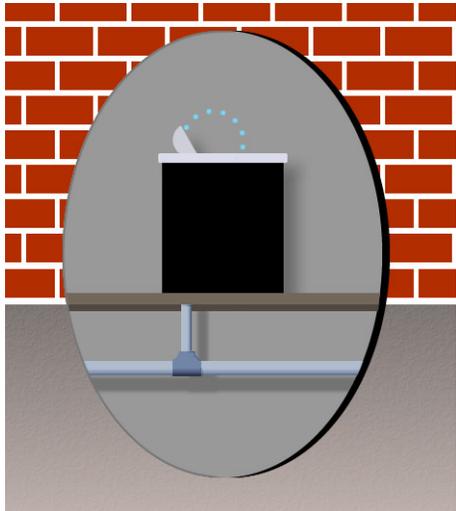
Collect a Supply Line Sample

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

Before you take your supply line sample...

Check your bottle and COC to confirm you are using the correct bottle with its corresponding sampling location and type.

1. Find the fixture in your building that is closest to where the 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.

On the COC, locate the correct sampling location & bottle ID.

- Note the date and time the sample was collected.

Step 6

Submit Your Water 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 timeframe, the process must start again, with all samples collected a second time.

Samples may be delivered using one of fifteen free drop-off locations, or by using the pre-paid postage stamp. A list of drop-off locations should be included in the box with your sample bottles.

After analysis, A&L Lab will provide your school with sample results.

For more information...

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Video trainings are also available

Visit the Maine Rural Water Association's YouTube channel:
www.tinyurl.com/PbSamplesYouTube