



LEAD IN DRINKING WATER WORKSHEET

Background: Lead can enter drinking water when lead-containing pipes and plumbing fixtures corrode, especially when the water has high acidity or low mineral content. Corrosion happens when metal dissolves or wears away because of a chemical reaction between your water and your plumbing.

There are three main sources of lead in water:

- Lead pipes – Historically, lead was used in pipes because it is more durable and flexible than other materials. A lead service line is the outdoor pipe connecting the water main under a street to a building’s plumbing. Lead pipes were also used for indoor plumbing, but that was rare. Congress banned use of lead pipes and lead service lines in 1986.
- Leaded solder – Solder is used to connect copper pipe and fittings. Congress banned the use of leaded solder in 1986.
- Leaded fixtures – Faucets and other plumbing components may be made from brass, a metal alloy that contains lead. In 1986, Congress limited the amount of lead in brass to 8% (close to the level of lead typically present in products at that time). In 2014, Congress reduced the limit to a much lower level of 0.25%.

Factors affecting how much lead gets into water include the chemistry of the water, the amount of lead the water contacts, water temperature, pipe wear and tear, the length of time water sits in the pipes, and the presence of protective scale or coating inside the plumbing materials.

You cannot see or taste lead in water.

Instructions: Fill out the below worksheet once a year and keep it in your family handbook for your records. Follow each step below to find out if lead is in the water coming into your child care home.

Date this form was completed:

1 WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WATER COMING INTO OUR CHILD CARE HOME.

Instructions: If your water comes from a community water system, you can call to request a copy of its annual water quality report, called a consumer confidence report (CCR).

Step 1 is not applicable-our water comes from a household well or other private water supply, skip to Step 2.

We contacted our community water system.

Name and contact information for community water system:

Notes or report from our community water system is on file.

No report is available.

2 WHETHER OUR WATER IS SUPPLIED BY A WATER UTILITY OR COMES FROM A PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY, WE TRY TO DETERMINE IF LEAD SERVICE LINES SUPPLY OUR WATER.

Instructions: If your home was built after 1986, it likely will not have a lead service line. If your water comes from a community water system, call the water utility to see if they have records on lead service lines in your area. If records are unavailable, the water utility may also be able to inspect your home. If the utility can't help or if your water comes from a private water supply, you can hire a licensed plumber to investigate for lead service lines. Check one of the three boxes below:

At this time, we have not been able to determine if there is a lead service line connected to the home.

We found no lead service lines connected to this home.

We identified a lead service line connecting the building to the water main under the street.

3 WE TRY TO DETERMINE IF OUR HOME HAS LEAD-CONTAINING PIPES, LEAD-CONTAINING PLUMBING FIXTURES OR SOLDER.

Instructions: You can use the age of your home to help with this step. A licensed plumber can also help to determine whether the pipes and fixtures may contain lead. Homes built before 1986 are more likely than newer homes to contain these features, but some newer home may have brass or other fixtures that contain lead. You can't tell by looking at these fixtures if they have lead in them, so you should test your water (see step 4).

We investigated but didn't find any potential lead sources in this home. We will test our water annually and keep a record on file (go to Step 4).

Year of construction of this home: We could not determine age.

This home has metal pipes and solder, which may contain lead.

This home has brass or chrome-plated fixtures or faucets, which may contain lead.

4 WE HAVE OUR WATER TESTED FOR LEAD AND KEEP RECORDS OF ALL TEST RESULTS.

Instructions: You can call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 to find local contact information for testing your water for lead. Testing costs between \$20 and \$100 per sample. Contact your water utility staff if your water comes from a community water system; they may be able to test the water for lead themselves or refer you to an EPA-accredited lab in your state. If your water comes from a household well or other private water supply, you can contact your state or local drinking water authority for a list of EPA-accredited laboratories. For more information, see [EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Toolkit](#).

We had all of the taps used for drinking and cooking tested for lead.

Name and contact information for laboratory that tested our water:

Our laboratory analysis report is on file.

Our test results indicated a possible problem with lead in our water.

We disclosed lead in water testing and results to parents and staff.



5 TESTING THIS YEAR INDICATES A POTENTIAL PROBLEM. WHILE WE CONSIDER LONGER-TERM PERMANENT MEASURES TO REMOVE THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEMS (SEE STEP 6), WE ARE TAKING THE FOLLOWING SHORT-TERM MEASURES CHECKED BELOW TO REDUCE PEOPLES' EXPOSURE.

Instructions: If testing finds lead concentrations above 5 parts per billion (ppb) in drinking water outlets, use at least one of the measures below to reduce lead levels. See [Module 6 of EPA's 3Ts](#) (Training, Testing, Taking Action) for more details on these measures.

- Use only cold water for drinking and cooking, especially when preparing baby formula. (This is a no-cost best practice.)

Instructions: It's required to use cold water for drinking and cooking in our child care home. However, if lead levels are above 5 parts per billion in our water this practice alone is insufficient to protect children's health.

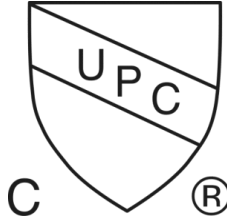
- Flush taps before drinking. (This a low-cost best practice.)

Instructions: The longer water has been sitting in pipes, the more lead it may contain (from leaching). Drinking faucets must be "flushed" if they have not been used in several hours. Flushing times can vary based on the plumbing configuration in your home or child care facility. If your water comes from a community water system, contact the water utility for advice on how long flush your pipes. If your home has a lead service line, you will need to flush the water for a longer period of time to ensure safety.

- Use a water cooler dispenser. (At \$6-\$10 per water jug, this is a moderate-cost best practice.)
- Provide NSF/ANSI 53 certified water filters at the taps, used according to manufacturer's specifications. (At \$65-\$500 per filter, this is a moderate-cost best practice.)

Instructions: Filters are effective at removing lead. They need routine maintenance (including periodic replacement, as specified by the manufacturer) to remain effective. Filters come in various forms including types that are attached directly to a faucet, or installed under the sink.

See [EPA's Tool for Identifying POU Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead](#) for more information.



These certification marks indicate that a filter meets the NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead removal. For additional protection, we look for a filter that is also certified against Standard 42 for particulate reduction.

You should also check the filter packaging for the text below, which indicates whether the filter has been certified to reduce lead:

"Tested and certified by (name of certification body) against NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 for the claims specified on the performance data sheet."

Use single-serve bottled water. (As this is the most expensive, wasteful, and environmentally taxing best practice, it should be used only as a last resort.)

6 TESTING THIS YEAR INDICATES A PROBLEM, SO WE ARE TAKING THE LONGER-TERM MEASURES CHECKED BELOW TO REMOVE THE SOURCES OF LEAD PERMANENTLY.

Instructions: Replacing fixtures, pipes, and service lines is the most effective way to eliminate lead in water but can be expensive. If your water is supplied by a community water system, contact your local water utility for more information on replacing lead service lines. Some water utilities offer customer assistance programs to help offset the cost of replacement.

If your water comes from a private water supply, you'll need to hire a licensed contractor to replace the lead service line or other pipes and fixtures that may contain lead. See [EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water, Module 6](#).

For more information on replacing lead-containing plumbing or fixtures EPA's [How to Identify Lead-Free Certification Marks for Drinking Water System & Plumbing Products](#) can be a useful resource selecting lead-free plumbing.

Instructions: If you have potential lead in water sources in your home and are unable to follow step 6, annually test your water and continue with your short-term measures to reduce lead levels.

No long-term measures are feasible at this time, but we continue to follow the measures checked above and annually test our water.

Name and contact information for utility or licensed contractor who is helping with permanent source removal measures:

Permanent measure(s) taken (check one or more of the items below):

- Lead-containing fixtures inside the home replaced. (At an approximate cost of \$200 per faucet, this is a moderate-cost best practice.)
- Lead-containing plumbing pipes inside the home replaced. (With a minimum of \$1,500, this is an expensive best practice.)
- Lead service line replaced. (With an approximate cost of \$2,000, this is an expensive best practice.)
- Records of remediation efforts and schedules for upkeep and maintenance onsite are on file.

RESOURCES ON LEAD IN DRINKING WATER:

- EPA's 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Toolkit:
www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water-toolkit
- Environmental Defense Fund's Putting Children First - Tackling Lead in Water at Child Care Facilities report: www.edf.org/health/tackling-lead-water-child-care-facilities
- Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative: www.lslr-collaborative.org/
- EPA's Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#findout

**Always contact your local health department or primary health care provider if you think there may be lead in or around your child care home. DON'T TRY TO REMOVE LEAD-BASED PAINT YOURSELF. Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house. Families should also have their children tested if they suspect they have been exposed to lead.

**Always check your local and state child care licensing regulations to make sure you are in compliance.