



Drinking Water

How to Collect Lead and/or Copper Samples

Request a 1 Liter Sample Bottle

PROVIDED BY THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

1. **Determine which laboratory to use and contact them.** Be sure to ask about the cost and request a one liter sampling bottle. Click to find the [list of Colorado Certified Safe Drinking Water Laboratories](#) or visit <http://www.coloradostatelab.us> for water testing information.
2. **Choose a faucet to sample from:**
 - Always collect samples from an indoor **cold water bathroom sink or kitchen faucet**
 - Never collect samples from a hot water faucet
 - Never collect samples from a faucet that has a water treatment device (e.g., filter) attached to it
 - Never collect samples from an outdoor faucet (e.g., hose bib)
3. **Prepare for sample collection.** Samples must be collected after the water has stood undisturbed (motionless or unused) for at least six hours, but no more than 18 hours. To achieve this, the best two options are:
 1. **Collect the Sample in the Morning:** The night before run the **cold water faucet** for several minutes to flush out any 'old' water. After flushing, let the water sit overnight and collect the sample first thing in the morning. Note the time when the faucet stopped being used and the sample collection time.
 2. **Collect the Sample in the Evening:** Before leaving in the morning run the **cold water faucet** for several minutes to flush out any 'old' water. After flushing, let the water sit during the day and collect the sample first thing when you return home. Note the time when the faucet stopped being used and the sample collection time.
4. **Collect the Sample:**
 1. Take the cap off of the bottle
 2. Place the sample bottle under the faucet
 3. Turn on the **cold water faucet**
 4. Collect the 'first' water out of the faucet
 5. Fill the bottle (**do not overfill**)
 6. Place the cap on the bottle
5. **Submit sample bottle to laboratory.** Write down any information requested and deliver to the laboratory. The laboratory can test the one liter sample bottle for lead, copper, or both.
6. **Result interpretation.** Most laboratories report in mg/L, but some report in ug/L. Please visit: http://www.eramsinfo.com/erams_beta/wqtool/

Lead Action Level = .015 mg/L (parts per million) = 15 ug/L (parts per billion)

Copper Action Level = 1.3 mg/L (parts per million) = 1300 ug/L (parts per billion)