



How to Collect Water Samples for Lead Testing

STATE-REQUIRED FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS

HB1421 requires facilities to test drinking water for lead three times by June 30, 2024.
This document provides instructions on how to properly collect water samples.

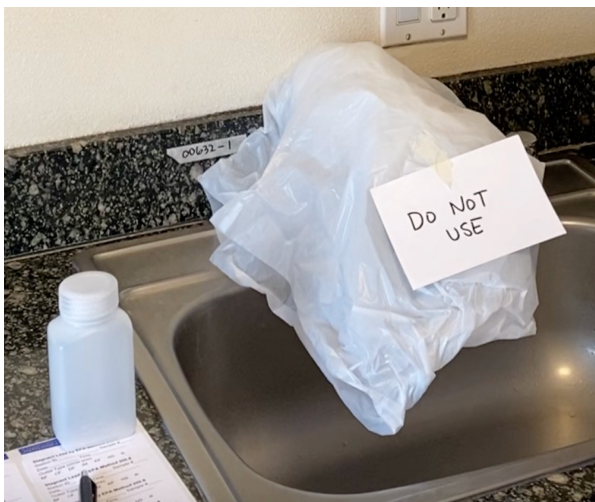
Before collecting samples, make sure you have the materials listed below:

- Instructions (this document)
- 250 mL sample bottles and bottle labels
- Pre-paid return shipping label (if applicable)
- Chain of Custody (COC) form (provided by laboratory)
- Pen
- Plastic bags (optional)
- “Do Not Use” signs (optional)

Prepare for Sampling

Water must sit stagnant in the pipes before collecting samples.

Cover the outlet with a plastic bag and sign to communicate to your community that the location can not be used. Water cannot be used for between 8 to 18 hours before collecting samples. After sampling, you can remove the bag and sign.



Video instructions are
available online. Scan
the QR code or visit the
NHDES YouTube page at
Youtube.com/NHDES





Collect Routine (First Draw) Samples



Water cannot be used for between 8 to 18 hours prior to collecting samples. Typically, samples are collected first thing in the morning after water has sat unused overnight. Before collecting samples, make sure this requirement has been met.

1. Open a 250 mL sample bottle with clean hands. Line up the bottle under the faucet and be ready to collect the first stream of water that comes out. Do NOT run the water prior collecting samples.
2. Turn on the cold water and fill up the bottle to the neck. Leave some space near the top. Tightly secure the cap. Be careful not to overfill the bottle.
3. Fill in the bottle label with the Outlet ID, Date, Time, and Outlet Type and fill out the COC form.
4. Repeat for every outlet (e.g., drinking fountain, classroom sink, kitchen faucet) that you plan to sample. Only fill up one bottle at each location.



Scan the QR
Code for video
instructions.



Label Samples and Complete Paperwork

Labeling each bottle and completing the Chain of Custody (COC) form helps the laboratory keep track of your samples. You will need to complete a row on the COC form for every sample you collect. **For every sample, write down the date and time the sample was collected.** After collecting all samples and completing/signing the paperwork, return the samples to the laboratory as soon as possible.

Stagnant Lead by EPA Method 200.8

Outlet ID _____ Flush? _____

Date _____ Time _____

Outlet Type (circle one):

BF CF DF IM KF NS R

If you completed an outlet inventory, label the Outlet ID to match your COC form and inventory.

Collect Investigative (Flush) Samples



A “flush” sample investigates whether the source of lead is within the fixture, interior plumbing, or other plumbing components. This can be used to help inform remediation strategies. If you have already completed remediation and are testing to ensure that it worked, please collect a **first draw** sample.

To collect a flush sample, first make sure water has not been used for between 8 to 18 hours.



Water cannot be used for 8-18 hours before collecting the flush sample



Start a timer, and let the water run for 30 seconds



Collect the flush sample at 30 seconds. Check the section on the bottle label and COC that says “Flush?”

Stagnant Lead by EPA Method 200.8

Outlet ID _____ Flush?

Date _____ Time _____

Outlet Type (circle one):

BF CF DF IM KF NS R

If the results from the second sample (the flush draw sample) are above 5 parts per billion (ppb), the source of lead may be interior plumbing materials. For assistance with interpreting results, please contact the Get the Lead Out team or download the program Remediation Guide at gettheleadoutnh.org.

Please note: If follow-up sampling results show lower lead levels than initial sample results, outlets must still be remediated. Additional sampling is not remediation.

Resampling After Remediation

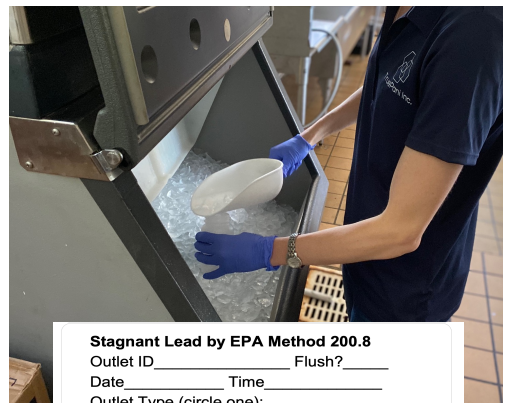
To make sure that the source of lead was addressed, a “retest” sample must be collected AFTER plumbing corrections or other remediation efforts have been completed. Follow the sampling protocol outlined on page 2 of this document. It is recommended to condition the outlet after remediation, prior to sampling again: remove the aerator (if present), run the water for 20 minutes, and then use the outlet for non-drinking water purposes for a few days. Then, resample following the protocol on page 2 of this document.

Collect Ice Machine Samples



Where feasible with an Ice Machine, water should not be used for between 8 to 18 hours prior to collecting samples. Typically, samples are collected first thing in the morning after water has sat unused overnight.

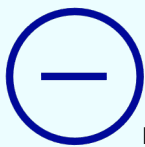
1. Open a 250 mL sample bottle with clean hands.
2. Use a non-metal scoop to place ice in the container. Fill the container at least three-quarters full with ice.
3. Complete the bottle label with correct information and fill out the COC form.
4. Only fill up one bottle at each location.



Stagnant Lead by EPA Method 200.8
 Outlet ID _____ Flush? _____
 Date _____ Time _____
 Outlet Type (circle one):
 BF CF DF IM KF NS R

If you completed an outlet inventory, label the Outlet ID to match your COC form and inventory.

Collect Investigative Ice Machine Samples (After Receiving Initial Results at/above 5 ppb)



Disconnect the ice maker from the plumbing and remove the aerator if present.



The sample should be collected from the disconnected plumbing.



Fill the sample of water immediately after opening the faucet or valve.

Stagnant Lead by EPA Method 200.8
 Outlet ID _____ Flush?
 Date _____ Time _____
 Outlet Type (circle one):
 BF CF DF IM KF NS R

If the results from the second sample (the flush draw sample) are above 5 parts per billion (ppb), the source of lead may be interior plumbing materials. For assistance with interpreting results, please contact the Get the Lead Out team or download the program Remediation Guide at gettheleadoutnh.org.