

## Customer Notification of Lead in Drinking Water Testing Results

The University of Rhode Island operates its own Public Water Supply in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. In accordance with EPA's Lead and Copper Rule and the Rhode Island Department of Health regulations, public water systems are required to report its lead results to the community. On February 11-13, 2025, URI Office of Utilities staff collected water samples from 60 locations on campus for analysis of lead levels in the drinking water. The results of this testing are summarized below. All sample results are in compliance with EPA action levels.

### URI LEAD TESTING RESULTS – Winter 2025

EPA Lead Action Level = 0.015 mg/L  
ND = Not Detected

Sample Date	Building	Lead Sample Result (mg/L)
2/12/2025	210 Flagg Rd	ND
2/12/2025	Adams Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Aldrich Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Alumni Center	ND
2/11/2025	Avedisian Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Ballentine Hall	0.001
2/12/2025	Barlow Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Beaupre Hall-Chemistry	ND
2/12/2025	Bliss Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Bressler Hall	0.004
2/12/2025	Brookside Apts	ND
2/12/2025	Browning Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Butterfield Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Carlotti Administration	ND
2/11/2025	Center for Biotechnology Life Sciences	ND
2/11/2025	Chaffee Hall	0.001
2/11/2025	Coastal Institute	ND
2/13/2025	Coddington Hall	ND
2/11/2025	CPRC-Social Science Research Ctr	ND
2/12/2025	Dining Services	ND
2/11/2025	Dorr Hall	0.002
2/11/2025	East Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Eddy Hall	0.002
2/11/2025	Ellery Hall	ND
2/12/2025	EMS/Central Receiving	ND
2/12/2025	Fascitelli College of Engineering	ND
2/12/2025	Fayerweather Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Garrahy Hall	0.002
2/12/2025	Gorham Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Green Hall	ND

2/11/2025	Greenhouse	ND
2/11/2025	Heathman Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Hillside Hall	ND
2/13/2025	Hopkins Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Human Resources	0.001
2/11/2025	Hutchinson Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Keaney	ND
2/11/2025	Kirk Applied Eng Lab	ND
2/12/2025	Library	ND
2/12/2025	Lippitt Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Mackal Field House	ND
2/11/2025	Mallon Outreach Center	0.002
2/11/2025	Merrow Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Multicultural	0.003
2/12/2025	Parking Services	0.004
2/11/2025	Peck Hall	ND
2/12/2025	Print Shop	0.004
2/11/2025	Quinn Hall	0.012
2/12/2025	Research & Grant	0.005
2/12/2025	Roosevelt	ND
2/12/2025	Sherman Building	ND
2/11/2025	Swan Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Tucker Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Tyler Hall	0.002
2/11/2025	URI Foundation	ND
2/11/2025	Washburn Hall	0.005
2/11/2025	Welcome Center	ND
2/12/2025	Weldin Hall	ND
2/11/2025	Wellness	ND
2/12/2025	Wiley Hall	ND

### Discussion Of Results

The enforceable Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow, and EPA requires 90% of the sample locations (54 sites) to be at or below the Action Level. The Action Level for lead is 0.015 mg/L. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a recommended Maximum Contaminant Level **Goal** (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. At URI, all 60 tested locations were below the Action Level, so there are no required actions.

### What Are the Health Effects of Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the

bones and can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

### **What Are the Sources of Lead?**

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, and lead-contaminated residential soil. Lead is found in older plumbing materials, some toys, some playground equipment, some children's metal jewelry, and some traditional pottery.

### **Steps To Reduce Lead in Drinking Water**

Flush your pipes before drinking, and only use cold water for consumption. The more time water has been sitting in the building's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Flush cold water from the faucet anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, until it becomes cold. This could take as little as thirty seconds to a few minutes depending upon use in the building.

Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. The two actions recommended above are very important to your health. They will probably be effective in reducing lead levels because most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing, not from the local water supply.

### **For More Information**

Please contact Matthew Simeone at 874-4203 or [matthew\\_simeone@uri.edu](mailto:matthew_simeone@uri.edu), water system manager, Office of Utilities, if you need further information.