

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. Due to URIs favorable past testing history, our system is on Reduced Monitoring, which requires testing for lead once every three years. This letter provides notification of those test results.

On September 21st and 22nd, 2021 URI staff collected water samples from 30 locations on campus in accordance with EPA's Lead and Copper Rule and the Rhode Island Department of Health regulations for analysis of lead levels in the drinking water. The results of this testing is summarized below.

TEST RESULTS ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH EPA ACTION LEVELS.

Date	Building	EPA Lead Action Level (mg/L)	Lead Sample Result (mg/L)
09/21/21	Quinn Hall	0.015	0.0145
09/21/21	Hopkins Hall	0.015	0.0083
09/21/21	Lippitt	0.015	0.0046
09/21/21	Carlotti Admin Building	0.015	0.0042
09/21/21	Green Hall	0.015	0.0037
09/21/21	Parking Services (Fmrly Police Station)	0.015	0.0034
09/21/21	Center for Biological Science	0.015	0.0023
09/21/21	Swan Hall	0.015	0.0023
09/21/21	Aldrich Hall	0.015	0.0023
09/21/21	Human Resources	0.015	0.0017
09/21/21	Ballentine Hall	0.015	0.0016
09/21/21	Alumni Center	0.015	0.0015
09/21/21	Heathman Hall	0.015	0.0014
09/21/21	Dining Services	0.015	0.0012
09/21/21	Greenhouse	0.015	0.0012
09/21/21	Cancer Prevention Research Center	0.015	0.0011
09/21/21	Hutchinson Hall	0.015	0.0011
09/21/21	Hope Dining	0.015	0.0011
09/21/21	Coastal	0.015	0.0010
09/21/21	East Hall	0.015	0.0007
09/21/21	Keaney Gym	0.015	0.0007
09/21/21	Library	0.015	0.0007
09/21/21	Hillside Hall	0.015	0.0007
09/21/21	Fascitelli Wellness Center	0.015	0.0006
09/21/21	Bressler Hall	0.015	0.0006
09/22/21	Eddy Hall	0.015	0.0006
09/21/21	Butterfield Dining	0.015	0.0006
09/21/21	Sherman Building	0.015	0.0005
09/21/21	Memorial Union	0.015	0.0003
09/21/21	Browning Hall	0.015	0.0003

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 (27 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, 30 of our 30 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. Anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, "flush" your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get. 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 Robert Bozikowski at 874-7896, Assistant Director for Facilities Services, Utilities Department, if you need further information.