

Actions for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

Strongly Recommended Actions

(For water samples with results higher than 15 ppb)

- Do not allow water faucet or drinking fountain to be used for drinking water.
- Post a *Do Not Use* sign on the faucet or drinking fountain, turn it off or remove it completely.
- Conduct follow-up testing *after* all of the *Suggested Actions* have been completed.

Suggested Actions

(For water samples with results of 1-15 ppb)

- Refer to EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools* that includes information on assessing plumbing and implementing control measures to reduce elevated lead levels. It can be found online at http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschool.pdf
- Flush the pipes to the faucet or drinking fountain each morning before students arrive. Flushing the pipes will get rid of water that has been in the pipes overnight.
 - Water fountains without refrigeration and water faucets should be run for 30 second to one minute until the water is noticeably colder.
 - Water fountains with refrigeration should be run for 15 minutes.
- Remove and clean, or replace, faucet aerators.
- Consider replacing faucets or water fountains with a lead-free, NSF-approved fixture.

Routine Prevention and Control Actions

- Create and implement aerator cleaning schedules for all water faucets so that debris can be removed.
- Use only cold water for food preparation and drinking. Hot water dissolves lead faster than cold water.
- Flush faucets and drinking fountains regularly, especially after weekends, vacations, or long periods of inactivity.
- Post signs in bathrooms that water from the sink faucets should not be used for drinking water. Put both words and pictures on signs.
- If lead is detected in your water, consider testing *all* faucets and drinking fountains on a regular basis.

Additional Resources

- <http://web.uri.edu/nemo/lead-in-water>