NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

Lead in Drinking Water



Lead can enter your water from pipes that bring the water to your home and from pipes and fixtures (such as faucets) inside your home. Lead cannot be seen, smelled or tasted—testing is the only way to tell if there's lead in the water. Test your water at a certified lab. Take the water sample from the kitchen faucet and collect the sample first thing in the morning after the water has sat in the pipes all night.

What does my water test result mean?

Non-Detect (ND) or less than 1 ppb (ug/L) or .001 ppm (mg/L)

- No action needed

1 to 5 ppb (ug/L) or .001 to .005 ppm (mg/L)

- Flush the tap by running cold water for one minute before using every morning and after you've been away from home for the day. This clears out water that has been sitting in the pipes for hours allowing lead to concentrate in your drinking water.
- Use only cold water for drinking and cooking. If you need hot water for drinking or cooking, run cold water from the tap first, then heat it.
- If you use tap water for baby formula/foods, make sure you only use cold water and flush the tap for a full minute first.

Greater than 5 ppb (µg/L) or 0.005 ppm (mg/L)

- Take all the steps listed above for results between 1-5 ppb.
- Use bottled water for baby formula until issue is resolved.
- Install a water filter that is certified to remove lead. There are pitcher and faucet filters that remove lead, but read the package carefully. It must say it is certified by NSF/ANSI under Standard 53 for lead removal.
- After you've taken all the steps listed above, test your water for lead. If there is no lead, great job! You've successfully solved the issue.
- Instead of filtering, you could try to determine the source of the lead if it is in the home. You could replace any lead plumbing parts or fixtures, then re-test the water to determine if any lead remains.

Questions About Your Water?

1-603-271-2513 or DWLead@DES.NH.Gov