



Lead and Copper Rule Sample Site Selection Criteria

Based on a distribution system materials evaluation, community water supplies must identify a pool of lead and copper sampling sites large enough to ensure a sufficient numbers of sites are available for sampling. The sampling pool must target high risk sites using the criteria below.

- Samples must be collected from **Tier 1** sites, unless
- insufficient Tier 1 sampling sites are available, then **Tier 2** sites must be used, unless
- insufficient Tier 1 and Tier 2 sampling sites are available, then **Tier 3** sites must be used.
- If no Tier 1, 2, or 3 sites are available, sampling sites must be representative of plumbing materials typically found throughout the water system.

TIER 1 SITES - Single family residence with:

- Lead service lines*
- Copper plumbing with lead solder installed after 1982 and before 1989
- Interior lead plumbing
- Multiple family residences (MFR) may be used as Tier 1 sites when MFR comprise at least 20 percent of the total service connections.

TIER 2 SITES - Buildings or MFR with:

- Lead service lines*
- Copper plumbing with lead solder installed after 1982 and before 1989
- Interior lead plumbing

TIER 3 SITES - Single family residence with:

- Copper plumbing with lead solder installed before 1983

OTHER SITES

- Sites representative of plumbing materials commonly found throughout the water supply.

*** If a water system has lead service lines (LSL), at least 50 percent of the sampling sites must have an LSL. EPA has clarified that sites with lead goosenecks or pigtails (commonly defined as the publically-owned portion of the service line between the water main and a either a connector line or the curb box) should be considered Tier 1 sites. Priority should be placed on sites with full LSLs, followed by partial LSLs, followed by lead goosenecks.**

Also Note:

- Each round of sampling should be conducted at the same sampling sites. If an original sampling site is not available, you should collect a tap sample from another site meeting the same Tier criteria as the original site and document the reason for the change.
- For residential sites, samples must be collected from kitchen or bathroom taps typically used for consumption. For non-residential sites, samples must be collected from taps typically used for consumption. Do not sample from outside hose spigots or utility sinks.
- Samples may not be taken from taps that have point of use or point of entry treatment devices designed to remove inorganic contaminants, such as a water softener.