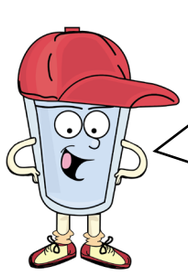
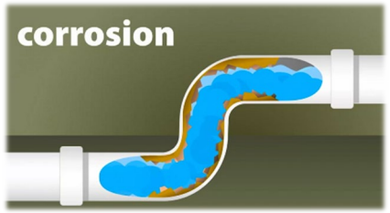
U.S. EPA 3Ts: Sample Collection Guide for Child Care Facilities

For more information on how to sample for lead, visit the in-depth video at: https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water#mod5.
Visit EPA's 3Ts Toolkit for more information on the modules referenced below at: www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts.



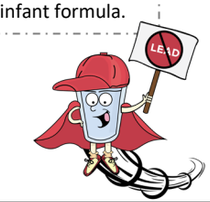
Hi! I'm **Thirstin**! Let me show you how to sample for lead in drinking water at a child care facility.



Lead in drinking water most often results from corroded plumbing materials that contain lead.

Children are most susceptible to the effects of lead as their bodies are still developing.

Extra caution must be taken when using in infant formula.



If your child care facility operates out of a home or relies on its own well, call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 for help testing your water for lead.

1 Contact a Certified Laboratory

To find a list of certified drinking water labs, visit – www.epa.gov/dwlabcert or contact your state WIIN grant program.*

Go to **Module 4** for a list of considerations when choosing a laboratory.

2 Identify Fixtures to Sample

Prioritize sampling fixtures that are actively used for cooking or drinking.

3 Label Containers

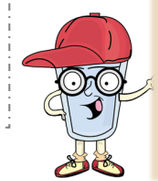
Develop a labeling system to track and label your sample containers.

Go to **Module 4** for the factsheet: *Develop a Code System for Samples*.

4 Prepare

Post signs the night before to ensure the water is not used before you sample.

Water must be stagnant for at least 8 hours, but no more than 18 before sampling.



Gather the following materials:

- ✓ Pencil and notepad
- ✓ Sampling form
- ✓ Hand wipes
- ✓ Stopwatch
- ✓ Disposable plastic gloves
- ✓ Bottled water
- ✓ Sample containers
- ✓ Map of the plumbing system

5 Conduct Sampling

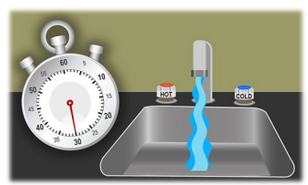
Use cold water taps only.

Take samples **before** the facility opens and **before** fixtures have been used.

For a first draw sample, do not run the water before collecting samples.

Place the container under the fixture and then open the faucet.

Fill the container to the top – careful not to overfill it.



For a flush sample, follow the same procedures, but use a stopwatch and let the water run steadily for 30 seconds, then fill the container.

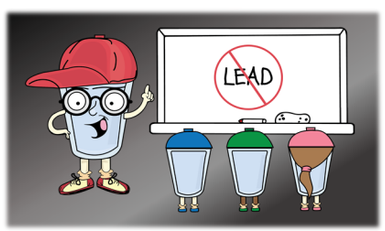
6 Pack and Ship

Ensure that your samples have been properly labeled and that they are securely packed in the shipping container, according to the instructions from the lab.

Ship your samples as soon as possible.

7 Share Results

Share the testing results with your community, including parents, students, staff, and anyone else that might use the building.



Go to **Module 1** for EPA's customizable parent letter template.

8 Take Action

If there are elevated lead levels**, take immediate action**. Contact your state WIIN grant program* for help.

Consider the following actions:

- ✓ Posting a sign at the fixture
- ✓ Installing filters
- ✓ Implementing a routine flushing program
- ✓ Removing or replacing the fixtures

Go to **Module 6** to review remediation and establishing routine practices for more information.

Helpful Resources

For more details, review the 3Ts Sampling Field Guide and other EPA resources at www.epa.gov/safewater/3Ts.

***Schools and child care facilities may be eligible for funds** to conduct lead testing and remediation through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act grant program. Contact your WIIN state program at: www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-2107-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water-state-grant-program

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