

Lead Testing Guidance

Testing the Water Supply for Lead in Child Care Settings



Child care providers exempt from licensing, and who are not related to all children in care, must test the water supply for lead if the plumbing fixture is used for drinking, cooking, or preparing food or infant formula. **Providers must test all drinking water faucets or fixtures at least once every six (6) years from the date of the last test.**

Use this guidance to help you identify what plumbing fixtures to test, how to find a certified lab to perform the analysis, and what appropriate follow-up action to take. Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document attached for questions regarding lead testing.

Testing Instructions

Overview

- Order a testing kit using an ORELAP accredited lab (see [CEN-0020](#))
- Collect a 250ml sample from any fixture used for drinking, cooking or preparing food or infant formula.
- Use the step-by-step instructions below for guidance on how to take a sample.
- Once you receive results from the lab, send a copy of the results to the Office of Child Care (OCC).

Collecting the Samples

Collect a “first-draw” sample, which means the **water must sit in the plumbing system for at least 8 hours, but not more than 18 hours**. It is easiest to collect these samples first thing in the morning. *If your home/facility is closed on weekends, do not collect the sample on Mondays.*

- **Do not remove the aerator** from the fixture at any time during the initial sampling process.
- **Only sample cold water.**
- **Collect the first water from the faucet without overflowing the sample bottle.**

Correcting

If the test results show a lead level, which is 15 parts per billion (ppb) or higher, the provider must:

1. Prevent access to the failed water faucet or fixture immediately after receiving the test results. Continue to prevent access to that drinking water faucet or fixture until you can make corrections. Bottled water must be used until corrections have been made.
2. Submit a corrective action plan to OCC for approval within 60 days. The corrective action plan must identify an appropriate method for eliminating lead exposure and be implemented within 30 days of approval by OCC.
3. Prior to allowing child care children access to the water source that previously tested at or above 15ppb, the source must be retested, and the re-test results submitted to and approved by OCC.

Submitting Results

Once testing has been completed, submit lead test results to the Office of Child Care by email, ELD.Lead@ode.oregon.gov, mail, Office of Child Care, Attn: Lead, 700 Summer Street NE #350, Salem, OR 97301, or fax, 503-947-1428.

Lead testing costs can be reimbursed. Reimbursement documents must be submitted to Western Oregon University (WOU) with receipts. Call 1-800-342-6712 with questions regarding reimbursement. Please see **COMM-0266 License Exempt Lead Reimbursement** for more details and forms.

For more information about testing your water for lead, please visit the DHS website at:
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/CHILD-CARE/Pages/Providers.aspx>

Step-By-Step Instructions

How to Take “First Draw” or “Initial” Samples

STEP 1: Place the sample bottle under the fixture and open the cold water tap to a normal flow.

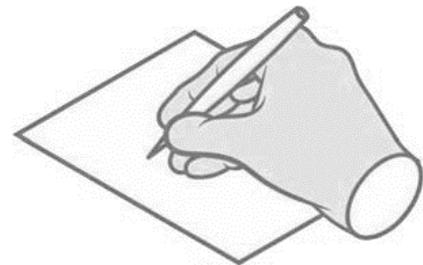


STEP 2: Fill the sample bottle to the shoulder or the line marked “250 ml” leaving a little bit of room at the top of the bottle. Close the cap tightly.



STEP 3: Fill out the lab form and bottle label (if applicable) according to the lab instructions. Some important information to capture is:

- Name of your facility, contact and billing information
- Collection date and time
- Name of person collecting the sample
- Type of sample (these are “first-draw” samples)
- Fixture name (kitchen tap, infant area sink, etc.)



STEP 4: Repeat this process for each fixture used for drinking, cooking, or preparing infant formula and submit the samples to lab for analysis.

