Lead and copper sampling

All community water systems are required to monitor for lead and copper in drinking water.

Unlike other contaminant monitoring, the samples must come from regularly used cold water taps inside residents' homes.



Independent monitoring program

As part of a settlement agreement (Concerned Pastors for Social Action v. Khouri), an extensive tap water monitoring program, beyond what is required under federal law, is being conducted to test up to one hundred homes in Flint for lead. The testing is done under the guidance of Professor Susan Masten of Michigan State University. The testing will follow the Lead and Copper Rule. All analyses will be conducted in a certified laboratory. Samples will not be handled by the State or City of Flint.

For more information:

About the independent monitoring program, call 517 884-8456 or email lcr.flint@gmail.com.

About lead and copper in your water supply, contact:

Genesee County Health Department 630 South Saginaw Flint, MI 48502 810-257-3603

or check michigan.gov/flintwater



Lead and Copper Sampling Procedure

1 Prepare to collect the sample

- The sample must come from a regularly used kitchen or bathroom faucet. Sample only cold water.
- The object is to get the "first draw" of the water that has been sitting stagnant in the pipes for at least 6 hours, but no more than 12 hours, prior to sampling. In order to this, no water is to be run during this time period—this includes toilet flushing.
- To ensure that the water is stagnant, the best sampling times are first thing in the morning or when you or your family returns home from work or school.
- If you have a faucet filter on your tap, be sure to turn the filter into the "off" or "bypass" position before collecting a sample.
- Do not remove the aerator from the faucet .

2 Collect the sample

- Do not run any water before collecting the sample.
- Make sure that the water comes directly from a faucet. Do not collect the sample from a hose. The water must not be treated within your house—by filtering or softening or any other means.
- Place the open bottle below the faucet and turn on the cold-water tap, allowing the water to flow at a high flowrate.
- Fill the sample container to the shoulder of the bottle
- Screw the cap on the bottle tightly.
- Dry outside of bottle and place it in the plastic bag.
- If you have a faucet filter, be sure to return it to "on" mode.

3 Complete the lab form

- Write your name in the box for "sampler"
- Write the date and time the sample was collected next to the sample code.
- Place the form in the bag.



4 Sample pickup

- When your sample is ready for pickup call 517 884-8456 or email lcr.flint@gmail.com
- Be sure to leave your name and contact information so we can arrange to pickup your sample.