

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LABORATORY

Physical: 359 South Park Drive, Colchester, VT 05446

Mailing: PO Box 1125, Burlington, VT 05402-1125

1-800-660-9997 (VT only) or 1-802-338-4724

INORGANIC CHEMICAL SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS LEAD AND/OR COPPER, HOMEOWNER

Please read prior to collection of sample. If these instructions are not followed closely it may result in the analysis being delayed or the sample being rejected. **Expect test results to be mailed approximately 14 - 21 days from sample submission date.**

What you will need to collect sample:

One liter wide mouth pre-cleaned plastic container for each sample to be collected

Water Sample Collection Information Form for each sample to be collected

Where to take sample:

Collect the sample where you usually take your drinking water.

There are two basic sampling techniques that homeowners may use. Please read the descriptions below for DRAW and FLUSH and decide which technique you wish to use.

- a. DRAW** - The result of testing this sample will show how much lead/copper has leached (dissolved) into water that has been in the pipes in your home or building for at least 6 hours. (You are collecting the water that comes immediately from the tap when first turned on, after water has not moved in your water pipes for **six hours** or more to test for lead/copper.)
- b. FLUSH** - The result of testing this sample will indicate whether flushing the lines is sufficient to reduce lead/copper levels. (You are flushing pipes in your house and collecting the water from the service connector or water main connected to your home or building or in the case of private water supplies, the line coming from the well or spring, to test for lead/copper.) Sample from the same faucet used for Draw. In most cases, letting the water run until it becomes as cold as it will get (record how long this takes), will ensure you get water from the connector or water main or your supply.

DRAW SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not touch the mouth of the bottle or inside of the cap with fingers. Do not remove aerators or strainers prior to taking samples. Do not flush the faucets prior to letting the water sit for 6 hours.
2. To get an accurate first draw sample, **Do not use any water at the selected faucet for six hours before** taking the sample. It may be easiest to take this sample first thing in the morning.
3. Collect water sample from the **cold water faucet** in bath or kitchen.
4. Place the opened sample bottle below the faucet and open cold water tap as you would fill a glass with water. Do not let any water go down the drain. **DO NOT EMPTY OR RINSE THE CONTAINER.**
5. **Fill the sample bottle to the line** and turn off the water. Record date and time the sample was taken.
6. Tighten the screw cap firmly to prevent leakage. **Label the sample bottles so they can be identified.**
7. Complete Sample Collection Information form. Return with sample container to the Laboratory promptly. **If proper identification (date and time of sampling) is not submitted, the sample may not be analyzed.**

-OVER PLEASE-

FLUSH SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not touch the mouth of the bottle or inside of the cap with fingers. Do not remove aerators or strainers prior to taking samples
2. Collect water sample from the cold water faucet in bath or kitchen.
3. Let cold water run for 3-5 minutes at full flow, flushing the pipes, before taking sample.
4. **Fill the sample bottle to the line** and turn off the water. Record date and time the sample was taken.
5. Tighten the screw cap firmly to prevent leakage. **Label the sample bottles so they can be identified.**
6. Complete Sample Collection Information Form. Return with sample container to the Laboratory promptly. **If proper identification (date and time of sampling) is not submitted, the sample may not be analyzed.**

MAIL OR DELIVER PROMPTLY! THE SAMPLE SHOULD BE RECEIVED DURING BUSINESS HOURS (MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM).

If you have questions or suggestions regarding these instructions, please call or write to us. Thank you.