

Results	What this means?	What you can do?
Sample less than 1.0 µg/L	The laboratory did not find any lead in your water.	Continue to check water every year, to ensure your water supply does not become contaminated.
"First Draw" less than 5 µg/L AND 45 Second Flushed is below 2 µg/L	Water is acceptable for drinking.	
"First Draw" is greater than 30 µg/L	A <i>serious</i> lead contamination problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should consider requesting that your doctor test lead blood levels in any young children or pregnant women in your family.
"First Draw" between 5 and 30 µg/L	A significant contamination problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For adults, the health effects of elevated blood lead levels can include high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems, kidney damage and memory and neurological problems.
"First Draw" sample is above 5 µg/L AND "45 Second Flushed" is below 2 µg/L	A minimal amount of lead is contaminating your water supply.	<p>Your lead contamination problem could be avoided by making sure that you <i>run the water for 30 seconds</i> before using water for drinking and cooking.</p> <p>The most efficient and effective way to deal with this problem is to purchase a water filter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure that you purchase a filter that says it removes lead, not just sediment or chlorine. Some filters are faucet-mounted and some are installed into the plumbing under the sink. Another option would be to keep a bottle of "Flushed" water in your refrigerator for drinking and cooking.
"Flushed" samples are in the 2 to 5 µg/L range	Maybe negative health effects. It is unclear whether this water will result in any long-term health problems for you and your children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following groups need special protection from lead: pregnant women, infants, children under six or those with high blood levels of lead, or anyone who is exposed to lead at work. You may want to use a water filter, use bottled water or even replace lead pipes, soldered joints, plumbing fittings or the submersible well pump in your plumbing system to improve the margin of safety, particularly if your "Flushed" water is near the top of this range.
"Flushed" samples are above 5 µg/L	Unfortunately, Line flushing will not work as a method of avoiding lead exposure from your water system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider using a water filter, bottled or distilled for drinking and cooking. Your plumbing system may take extraordinarily long time to flush (which might occur in a large apartment building) or that your water is being contaminated by lead before it reaches your pipes. Try contacting your water utility to find out what actions are being taken to help lower lead levels in the water.

Explanation of Lead in Tap Water Test Results

(This publication is derived from information provided by Dr. Steve Patch, UNC Asheville)

Any lead in drinking water can have a negative effect on health. Most medical and scientific professionals agree that lead levels above 10 µg/L represent a health threat, especially to infants and young children. In 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) noted the importance of deleading by issuing new federal lead regulations, especially if first draw lead levels are above 15 µg/L. However, this is not a strictly health-based standard and even first draw levels between 5 and 10 µg/L can be of concern.

Please refer to the chart to get a better understating of your test results.

Important Tips:

- Be aware that not all water treatment devices remove lead. Before purchasing a filter, make sure filter has been approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). More information on water filters may be found on the internet or at your local public library.
- Research has shown that the small screen or aerator at the open end of the faucet (where water comes out) can trap particulate lead and contaminate water flowing through it. Several times a year, unscrew the aerator and rinse any particles caught in it.
- You may also consider correcting the problem at the source by checking your plumbing system for the source of the lead contamination.
- Although it is expensive, lead-bearing plumbing materials can be replaced with non-leaded substitutes, as can fixtures with significant amounts of lead or lead soldering on copper piping. If you are having this work done, instruct your plumber in writing to use lead-free materials.
- Beginning in 1995, the EPA required that pump manufacturers no longer sell leaded brass pumps. If you are on a private well, some of the lead could also be from an older-model submersible pump in the bottom of the well that were commonly made of a leaded brass alloy.
- Studies show that high "First Draw" lead concentrations may come not only from solder in the plumbing lines, but also from the faucet fixture itself. For this reason, it is a good idea to test each cold-water tap from which you drink. Research also indicates that, because incoming water is considerably colder in the winter, "First Draw" lead concentrations may increase in summer months. If your "First Draw" reading is border-line during a winter test, you may wish to retest your water during the summer. This test is a snapshot of the lead content of your water only at the time the test was taken. Conditions may change, so it is important to test water periodically.