

# HOW TO COLLECT A DRINKING WATER SAMPLE FOR LEAD TESTING.

## PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COLLECTION.

1. Determine how many locations or sites you want tested. Choose the locations you generally use for drawing drinking water. Also, choose whether you want to test the standing water in the pipes nearest to the faucets as a **first draw** sample, the water throughout your water delivery system as a **flushed** sample, or **both**. That choice determines how you collect the samples and how many bottles you may need.
2. We supply the one clean, plastic, 1-liter sample bottle for each sample location. Contact the lab if you need more bottles. All bottles are included in the cost of analyses.
3. Fill out the label on the bottle with a water-proof, non-smearing ink pen or marker just prior to collecting your sample.
4. A. If your sample is a **first draw** sample, wait to collect that sample until the water has sat stagnant in the pipes for at least six hours, including not using any water near the collection site such as washers, showers or toilets. Collect the first water coming from the **COLD** water faucet into the sample bottle. Fill the bottle to the neck, air space is permitted.

**NOTE:** If your sample is a **flushed** sample, this can be taken any time, but run the **COLD** water for two to five minutes, then fill the sample bottle to the neck. Air space is permitted.

B. If your house is served by a lead service line you should collect two samples. The first is the first draw sample and as described above; the second sample is the fifth liter of water. **If you need both a first draw and a flushed sample, collect each in separate bottles.** You will collect the first draw sample, and then fill and empty the second bottle three times before collecting the second sample.

5. Complete the "Request for Analysis" (RFA) or "Chain of Custody" (COC) form to the best of your knowledge. Each specific piece of information is necessary. Be thorough and legible.
6. Return the samples with the RFA/COC form back to the laboratory **as soon as possible** after collection. You can drop them off or mail/ship them to us by overnight or next-day shipping.

### ***Further notes from the EPA:***

*Use a kitchen or bathroom cold-water faucet for sampling. If you have water softeners on your kitchen taps, collect your sample from the bathroom tap that is not attached to a water softener, or a point of use filter, if possible. Do not remove the aerator prior to sampling. Place the opened sample bottle below the faucet and open the cold water tap as you would do to fill a glass of water. If your sample was collected from a tap with a water softener, please note this on the COC.*

**For any questions, contact the Lab. Contact information is on the RFA or COC.**