



Water is treated at CCWD water treatment plants and is managed in a way that minimizes the opportunity for pipes to corrode and allow lead to leach into water. Facilities that receive water from CCWD can be assured that our water meets federal and state drinking water standards. Water quality, however, can degrade after it enters a school or daycare building if it is in contact with lead-containing plumbing. Minimal or no water usage over the weekend can affect water quality. Best management practices can help schools and daycares limit bacteria or lead contamination to ensure safe drinking water is provided to students and staff.

WATER QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM

Contra Costa Water District tests every three years for lead in more than 50 pre-selected homes throughout the treated water service area. Results are summarized in the Annual Water Quality Report that is published at www.ccwater.com/AWQR

Water piping and plumbing fixtures in your facility can affect water quality. If you are concerned about lead levels in your school, you may wish to have your water tested. A list of local labs is located on our website at www.ccwater.com/515/Lead-CCWD-Drinking-Water

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CCWD Water Quality Hotline

925-688-8156

www.ccwater.com/515/Lead-CCWD-Drinking-Water

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

800-426-4791

Lead in Drinking Water Website

www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

EPA Website on Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Day Care Centers

www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-drinking-water-schools-and-child-care-facilities

Drinking Water Best Management Practices for Schools and Child Care Facilities

<http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockkey=P100HGM8.txt>

National Lead Information Center Hotline

1-800-424-LEAD



WATER QUALITY TIPS

SCHOOLS
&
DAYCARES



WATER QUALITY TIPS SCHOOLS & DAYCARES

FLUSH FAUCETS USED FOR DRINKING OR FOOD PREPARATION

After periods of minimal or no water usage:

- Schools and daycares experience periods of minimal or no water usage over extended breaks and weekends.
- Low water usage may reduce disinfectant protection; increase bacterial growth in the building pipes; and increase the likelihood of materials such as lead being absorbed from plumbing systems.



- Flushing taps replaces stagnant water that may have been exposed to lead pipes or solder.
- Locate water faucets used for drinking and food preparation.
 - First, flush the tap located farthest from the main service line in the street for 10 minutes.
 - If your facility has more than one wing there may be more than one outlet "farthest" from the main service line.
 - Locate the taps on each floor farthest from the floor's water service riser and flush the cold water taps for 10 minutes.
 - Flush individual drinking water taps and fountains for one minute to remove old water.
 - Collect flushing water and find a non-potable use such as plant watering.

CLEAN WATER FOUNTAINS AND REPLACE FILTERS

- Clean drinking fountains daily.
- Replace water fountain filters according to the manufacturer's instructions to ensure water is free of impurities.

CLEAN SCREENS AND FAUCET AERATORS

- Screens and aerators can trap lead particles and sediment located at the end of faucets.
- Remove and clean screens and aerators at least every three months.

USE ONLY COLD WATER TO PREPARE FOOD AND DRINK

- Hot water dissolves lead and other metals more quickly than cold water.
- Use only cold water to prepare ice, drinks, infant formula or food.
- If hot water is needed, heat cold tap water.

REPLACE OLD PLUMBING OR FIXTURES

- Lead-free plumbing can minimize lead from entering the building's drinking water system.
- Most faucets purchased prior to 1997 were constructed of brass or chrome-plated brass containing up to 8 percent lead.
- Since 2010, water fixtures and fittings intended to convey drinking water may only be replaced with ultra-low lead products (containing no more than 0.25 percent lead).
- Replace old fixtures and fittings with lead-free fixtures and solder.
- Flush cold water taps for five minutes at a high flow rate once a day for three days after replacement is completed, especially before using water for drinking and cooking.

RESPOND TO ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS

- Any outlet with elevated lead levels should not be used until the source of contamination is found. The following actions should be taken in response to elevated lead levels: replace sources of lead in plumbing system with lead-free fixtures, install point-of-use filters, provide alternative "lead-free" drinking water such as bottled water, and communicate findings.



POINT-OF-USE FILTERS

- If monitoring indicates your water has lead, and you are pregnant or have children under age six, use cold, filtered tap water to prepare drinks and food until all lead sources are removed. This includes water used for making infant formula, beverages and ice.
- Select a filter certified to meet NSF Standard 53 for lead. The filter package should specifically list the device as certified for removing the contaminant "lead."
- Replace filter cartridges according to the manufacturer's instructions.