

Results	What this means?	What you can do?
Samples 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 <b>AND</b> "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"> <li>You should consider requesting that your doctor test lead blood levels in any young children or pregnant women in your family.</li> </ul>
"First Draw" between 5 and 30 µg/L	A significant contamination problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
"First Draw" sample is above 5 µg/L <b>AND</b> "45 Second Flushed" or "2 Minute Flushed" sample is below 2 µg/L	Flushing your line greater than 45 seconds can reduce lead exposure.	<p>Your lead contamination problem could be avoided by making sure that you <i>run the water for 45 seconds</i> before using water for drinking and cooking.</p> <p>Another way to address the problem without worrying about flushing, is to purchase a water filter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be sure that you purchase a filter that says it removes lead, not just sediment or chlorine.</li> <li>Some filters are faucet-mounted and some are installed into the plumbing under the sink.</li> <li>Another option would be to keep a bottle of "Flushed" water in your refrigerator for drinking and cooking.</li> </ul>
"45 Second Flushed" or "2 Minute Flushed" sample is in the 2 to 5 µg/L range	This level of lead in flushed water is still something of a concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>You may want to use a water filter or use bottled water to improve the margin of safety, particularly if your "Flushed" water is near the top of this range.</li> </ul>
"45 Second Flushed" or "2 Minute Flushed" sample is above 5 µg/L	Unfortunately, flushing clean water through your pipes is not reducing lead exposure as expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider using only filtered water, bottled water or distilled water for drinking and cooking.</li> </ul>

## **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 de-leading 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) for lead removal. 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.
- 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. Usually filters and use of bottled water are more cost-effective.