

Sample Bottle Selection When Testing Water for Lead

What should you know?

When testing your drinking water for lead, the amount of water collected (bottle size) can help identify where the lead may be coming from. Talk with the certified laboratory you choose about the options available. Not all laboratories will have the sample bottle sizes described below.

For a successful test, **do not use any water** in the house for at least six hours before sampling. While the water sits motionless, lead can move from the plumbing into the water, allowing lead to be measured.

Consider these facts when testing your water for lead:

- **Older faucets, fittings, and valves** sold before 2014 may contain up to 8 percent lead.
- Homes built before 1988 with copper plumbing may have **lead-soldered joints**.
- Some older homes have **lead service lines**. The service line is the underground plumbing that connects your home to the water main.

Any of these lead plumbing parts can add lead into your drinking water.

Choose the water sample bottle size based on what you want to know.

Individual First-Sample Tests

After water has been sitting in your pipes for at least six hours:

- A 125 milliliter (mL) water sample can tell you if lead may be coming from the **faucet**.
- A 250 mL water sample can tell you if lead may be coming from the **faucet or the plumbing under your sink**.
- A 1 liter (L) water sample can tell you if lead may be coming from the **faucet, the plumbing under your sink, or 10 feet of your inside plumbing**. If you choose to fill a second 1 L bottle right after the first one, any lead in that sample is likely to have come from the **remaining plumbing inside your home**.

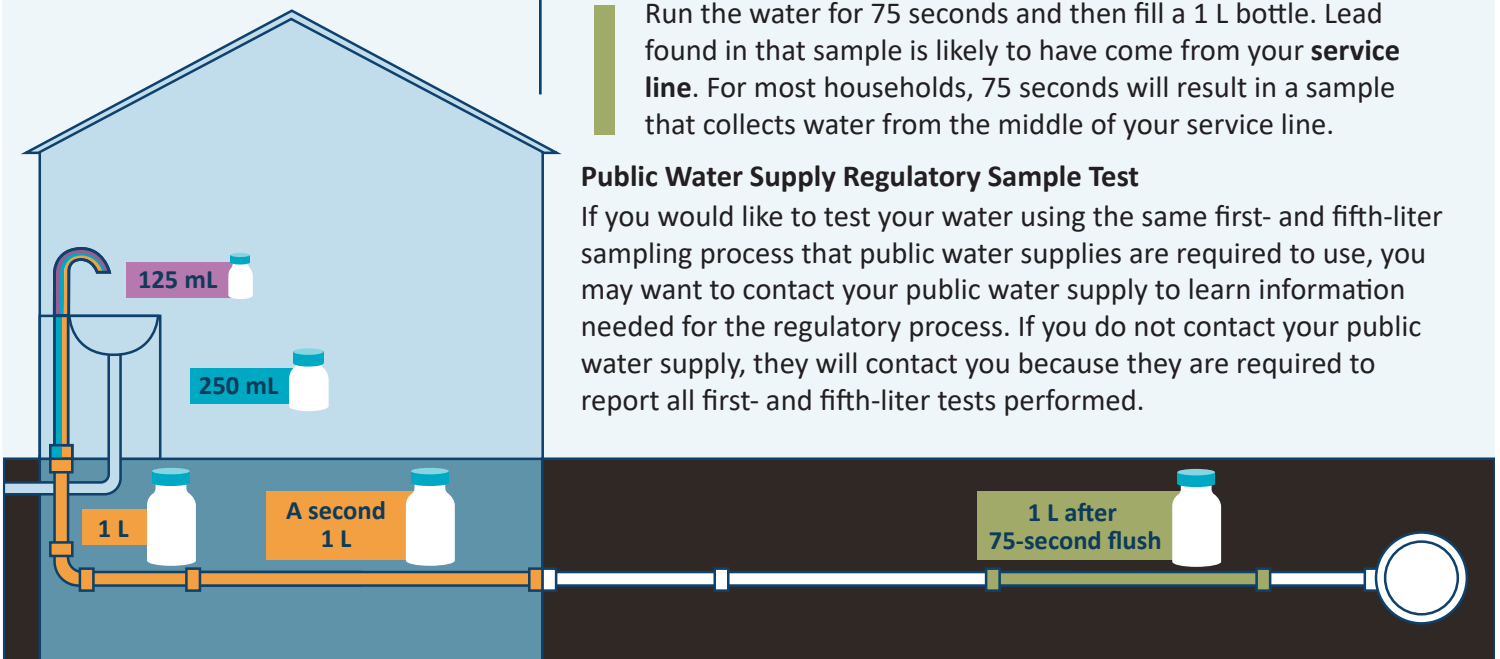
Service Line Sample Test

After water has been sitting in your pipes for at least six hours:

- Run the water for 75 seconds and then fill a 1 L bottle. Lead found in that sample is likely to have come from your **service line**. For most households, 75 seconds will result in a sample that collects water from the middle of your service line.

Public Water Supply Regulatory Sample Test

If you would like to test your water using the same first- and fifth-liter sampling process that public water supplies are required to use, you may want to contact your public water supply to learn information needed for the regulatory process. If you do not contact your public water supply, they will contact you because they are required to report all first- and fifth-liter tests performed.



If you have questions about testing your water for lead, call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.