



Lead and Copper Sampling Guidance Document

This guidance document was developed to help small water systems comply with the California Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The LCR requires **community** and **nontransient-noncommunity** water systems to monitor lead and copper levels at the consumers' taps.

How to Collect Samples:

Depending on the type of water system you operate, the following options are available for sample collection:

- 1) You can collect the samples yourself using the procedures outlined below, or
- 2) Residents of the water system can collect the samples for you. Residents collect the samples and complete the section on page 2 of this instruction sheet. You collect the filled sample bottles and the completed instruction sheets from the residents. Sample bottles are then transported to the laboratory for analysis.

Sample Procedures:

- 1) Samples from residential housing are to be taken from a kitchen or bathroom cold water faucet. Do not sample from faucets that have point-of-use treatment (e.g., water softener, carbon filter system, etc.). Samples from a non-residential building are to be collected from an interior tap from which water is typically drawn for consumption.
- 2) Each sample must be collected after the water has stood undisturbed in the pipes for at least 6 hours, but not more than 12 hours. It is best to collect the sample first thing in the morning.
- 3) Each sample must be one liter in volume and must contain the first water drawn from the faucet.
- 4) Remove the cap from the one-liter sample bottle, place the container directly below the faucet and gently open the cold-water tap. Fill the sample bottle to the line marked "1-liter or 1,000-ml" and turn off the water. Tightly cap the sample bottle and complete the required information on the sample bottle label.
- 5) All samples must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State to perform drinking water lead and copper analyses.





**County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency
Environmental Health Division**

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128
<https://www.scceh.org/>

TO BE COMPLETED BY RESIDENT

Water was last used: **Time:** _____ **Date:** _____.

Sample was collected: **Time:** _____ **Date:** _____.

Street Address: _____

Sample Location & faucet (e.g. Bathroom sink): _____

I have read the above directions and have taken a tap sample in accordance with these directions.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____