



Sampling Your School's Drinking Water

School Lead Test (Kit SL – Lead First Draw or Flush)

Thank you for testing your drinking water for lead (first draw and/or flush). A **first draw** sample tests the water that comes out of the tap after a period of inactivity. A **flush sample** collects water after the tap has been running for 30 seconds. Learn more and watch a video about testing your drinking water at healthvermont.gov/leadtest-schools.



Prepare and Collect First Draw Sample

- Collect all first draw samples first, then go back and take all flush samples.
- Sample all taps used for drinking and food preparation.
- Before collecting the water sample, do not use any water from the specific tap (e.g. kitchen sink) that you will be testing for 8-18 hours. Tip: collect the water first thing in the morning.
- Remove the sample bottle cap making sure you do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the bottle.
- Before turning on the water, place the opened sample bottle below the tap.
- Slowly turn on cold water and bring it to a normal flow rate, similar to how you would fill a glass of water. Catch all the water in the sample bottle – do not let any water go down the drain.
- Fill the sample bottle to the line and screw the cap on tightly.



Prepare and Collect Flush Sample

- When you are ready to sample the water, remove the cap making sure you do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the water sample bottle.
- Run cold water at low flow for 30 seconds. Turn up to a normal flow rate to take the sample, similar to how you would fill a glass of water.
- Fill the sample bottle to the line and screw the cap on tightly.



Over please.

Vermont Department of Health Laboratory
359 South Park Dr.
Colchester, VT 05446
1-800-660-9997 (VT only) or 1-802-338-4724

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 1125
Burlington, VT 05402-1125



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Return Sample

- Complete the Water Sample Collection Information Form and [check the box next to first draw or flush](#).
- Label the sample bottle with the [lab ID number](#) found in the top right-hand corner of the Water Sample Collection Information Form.
- [Wrap the form around the sample bottle](#) and secure it with a rubber band.
- Put the sample(s) with the attached form in a box and return your sample(s) to the Health Department Laboratory.



Frequently Asked Questions

How can I make sure I send a sample that is acceptable for testing?

Sometimes we receive samples that need to be “qualified”, which means the sample doesn’t meet all the testing requirements. Here are a few [things you can do to submit an acceptable drinking water sample](#):

- Submit your sample in the water sample bottle provided by the laboratory.
- Don’t send a sample that has a strong chlorine smell – too much chlorine can interfere with the test.
- Make sure to completely fill out the Water Sample Collection Information Form. An example of how to fill out the form is online at healthvermont.gov/leadtest-schools.
- Be sure the sample gets to the laboratory within one week from the time you filled the water sample bottle.

In which order should we take our samples?

To get accurate results, take first draw samples on all taps first, and then go back around and take flush samples. Start with taps that are closest to where the water comes into the building. If you have taps on multiple floors, start with the taps on the lower floors before moving up.

How do we test combination taps, like combination bottle fillers and water fountains or combination sinks and water fountains?

If you have a combination water fixture, take a first draw sample from each outlet, but [only one flush sample](#) from either outlet.

Instructional Videos and More Information: healthvermont.gov/leadtest-schools.