

# LEAD SAMPLING

HOW TO COLLECT VALID WATER SAMPLES  
FOR ACCURATE RESULTS.

## ABOUT LEAD

The water we provide to homes and businesses is lead-free, but lead can get into the water as it moves through customer-owned lead service lines and plumbing fixtures.

**To obtain valid water samples, please read the instructions fully before you begin.**

**For more information about lead and to see a step-by-step video on collecting a valid water sample, visit [denverwater.org/Lead](http://denverwater.org/Lead).**

## HOW THE TEST WORKS

Valid samples will capture water that has passed through your plumbing from the street to the faucet.

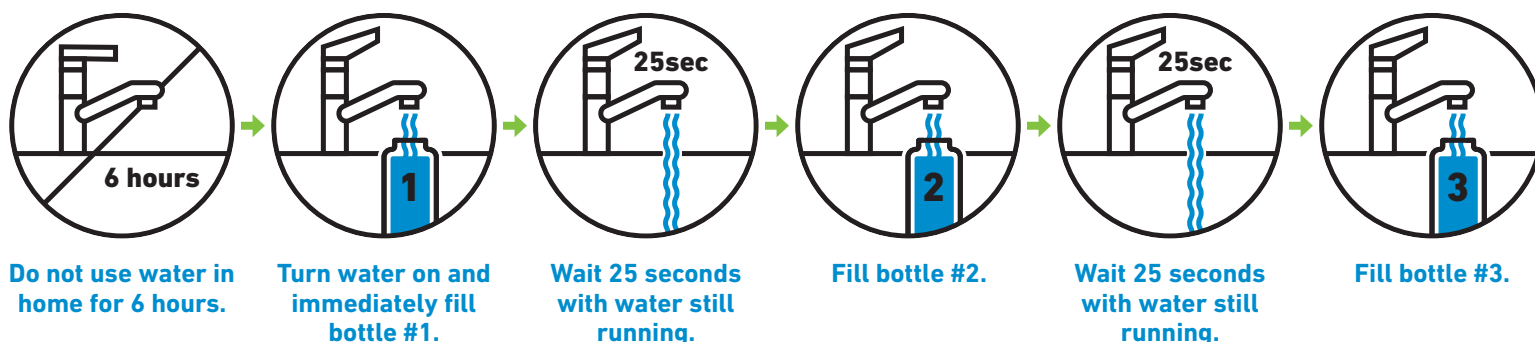
It is important to first allow the water to sit undisturbed in the pipes for a period of six hours. During the sample collection, allow the water to run. Do not turn off the water until you have filled all three bottles, letting the water continue to run for 25 seconds between each bottle.

**Bottle 1** will collect water that has been sitting in your faucet or pipes directly connected to the faucet of the collection location.

**Bottle 2** will collect water that has been sitting in pipes inside the home.

**Bottle 3** collects water that has been sitting in the service line, which is outside your home and connects to the main delivery pipe in the street.

**Results from these three samples will help pinpoint the location where lead may be present, if detected.**



### 1 Timing is Everything

Before collecting samples, review the time requirements and plan accordingly

- For accurate results, water must sit completely undisturbed in the pipes for at least six hours. Do not use any water during this time, including for drinking and flushing toilets. Don't forget to turn off icemakers, sprinkler systems, dishwashers or washing machines.
- Samples must be mailed to the lab within 48 hours of sample collection.

To return your samples to the lab for testing, place the kit in your mailbox or drop it off at your nearest United States Postal Service. You may also arrange a pickup at [USPS.com/pickup](http://USPS.com/pickup) or call 1-800-275-8777.

### 2 Sampling Location

Choose **ONE** location to collect **ALL** three samples.

- Choose a cold water faucet either in the bathroom or kitchen.
- Choose a faucet that does not have a water filter and is not connected to a home water treatment system, such as a softener.

### 3 Begin Sample Collection

This will be the first time you use any water in your home after the six-hour waiting period.

- Remove the lids of the collection bottles.
- Place bottle #1 under the faucet.

### 4 Fill Bottles

- Turn on the cold water and adjust the flow for normal use.
- Fill bottles to the top shoulder of the bottle, but not overflowing.
- Leave water running and wait 25 seconds between bottles.

### 5 Close and Seal

- Replace the lids and tighten securely.
- Place the included tamper seal over the cap of each bottle.

### 6 Complete the Chain of Custody Card

- Completely fill out the area labeled "To Be Filled Out By Resident". Please be sure to circle where your sample was collected, otherwise the sample cannot be processed. Confirm that your telephone number is correct. If it is not, please update.

### 7 Shipping

- Place all three sealed bottles and the Chain of Custody card into the box.
- Place the return shipping label on top of the original mailing label.
- Return your samples within 48 hours. To return your samples to the lab for testing, place the kit in your mailbox or drop it off at your nearest United States Postal Service. You may also arrange a pickup at [USPS.com/pickup](http://USPS.com/pickup) or call 1-800-275-8777

Lead sampling collection is complete. You may now use water normally.

### ➔ WHAT'S NEXT

The lab will receive the samples and test them. Results will be mailed to your home. Please allow at least four weeks to receive results.

**If you have any questions, please call 303-893-2444 for assistance, or visit [denverwater.org/Lead](http://denverwater.org/Lead).**