



“FIRST DRAW” LEAD & COPPER SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Lead and copper from plumbing corrosion is sampled using the “first draw” technique to get water that has been sitting still in the pipes for 6-10 hours.

Sitting still means no using the water at all! No toilet flushing, garden watering, clothes washing, etc. You want to give any metals that might leach into the water the opportunity to do so.

WHAT WE NEED:

1 liter (or more) of water in a clean plastic container.

The EPA has recently suggested that wide-mouth bottles make the best sampling containers so your water flow can be high without losing water to splashing outside the container. A standard one gallon jug can serve the same function, if you simply fill it half-way.



HOW TO GET THE BEST SAMPLE:

Remove any aerators or screens from your faucet.

Take the first water out of the faucet after water has been stagnant 6-10 hours.

- Do not rinse the container first.
- Don't lose any water to splashing outside the container.

Let your water flow fast so any particles of lead or copper are swept out of the pipes and into your bottle.

RECORD-KEEPING:

Record the time of sampling on the Chain of Custody form with your other information.

GET IT TO THE LAB:

Lab must receive sample and chain of custody form within 14 days of sampling.