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Lead and Copper Sampling Instructions

If you are on a **public** water system, it is best to contact the sampler or water operator of your system for sampling instructions.

Holding Times:

Lead and Copper must be preserved within 14 days of sampling with nitric acid. After preservation, it has a six month holding time.

Sample Container:

A 1 liter cube container or wide mouthed sample bottle are required for **public** water. For **private** wells, these tests may be performed from other sample containers and from smaller volumes. If you have concerns regarding the sample container or volume, please don't hesitate to call the lab.

Sample Collection:

1. Select the faucet or tap that is of interest, typically the kitchen or bathroom sink. Do not collect samples from a tap attached to filtration or softening systems.
2. Allow the water in the home or location to remain undisturbed for at least 6 hours. This means do not run the faucet or adjacent faucets during this period. It is recommended to sample first thing in the morning, or immediately after returning home from a work day. Do not flush the water line before the 6 hour waiting period or prior to taking the samples.
3. Do not remove the aerators on the tap.
4. Place the opened sample container below the faucet and gently turn on the cold water tap. Fill the bottle to within one inch of the top.
5. Store the sample in a cool place away from sunlight. It may be stored this way up to 14 days, but needs to be brought to the lab by the 14th day for preservation with nitric acid.

NOTE: The 6 hour waiting period is to ensure the water has adequate time of being in contact with the plumbing that may contain lead or copper. The laboratory will conduct testing for these analytes on **private** well samples without the 6 hour waiting period, but they may not be indicative of the potential lead and copper exposure within the home or sampling location.