

Lead and Copper Sampling Instructions

These samples are being collected to determine the lead and copper levels in your tap water. Sampling is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality in collaboration with your water system. **Thank you for participating!**

STEP 1: Planning to sample

Your water system will deliver the empty sample bottle on:

Date

Time

and pick up the filled sample bottle on:

Date

Time

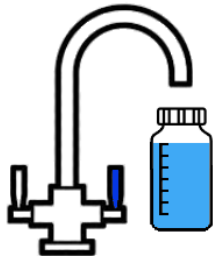
STEP 2: Before you sample



Do not use any water throughout the house for ***at least six hours*** before you take the sample.

Do not flush the line or remove any part of your sink (such as an aerator), even if you have done this to collect samples in the past.

STEP 3: Taking the sample



Place the open bottle under the tap in the kitchen (or bathroom) and turn on the cold water. Turn it off when the bottle is filled up to the 1,000-mL line.

Find a tap where the water does not flow through a filter or water softener. If you have a whole-house softener, do not take a sample, and immediately inform your water system.

STEP 4: After you sample

Complete the information below the dotted line and give it to your water system along with the filled bottle.

Your water system will let you know your results within 30 days, or within 1-2 working days if the lead and/or copper concentrations at your location are higher than the regulatory action levels.

For any questions, please contact your water system:

System Name

Contact Person

Phone Number

Sample location street address: _____

Water was last used: Date: _____ Time: _____

Sample was collected: Date: _____ Time: _____

Tap sample location (kitchen, bathroom, etc.): _____

Note any plumbing repairs in your house since last sample was collected:

I read the above directions and took a tap sample according to these directions.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Water system fills out the upper part

Participant fills out the lower part

Instructions for Water System

1. If you need to select sampling sites, please review the Lead and Copper guidelines (<https://www.deq.nc.gov/2025-lead-and-copper-guidelinespdf/open>) and make sure your sampling pool is up to date before conducting sampling.
2. Prior to distributing sampling instructions to customers, complete the following information in the upper part of the instructions:
 - In the STEP 1 box, fill out the date and time that sample bottle will be dropped off and collected.
 - Just above the dashed line, provide the name of your water system and the name and phone number of a contact who will be able to answer questions about your tap sampling program.
3. When sending samples to your lab, complete all information on the lab form including:
 - The collection date and time that were provided by the customer on the sampling instructions form
 - The sample location street address and tap location that were provided by the customer on the sampling instructions form
 - The tier level and location code of the sample site from your sampling pool
 - If the sample site is a school or daycare, check the box indicating this
 - Select "Routine Distribution (Compliance)" if the sample was collected to meet the tap sampling requirements. (note: non-compliance samples are required to be reported to the State but will not be included in 90th percentile calculations.)

Public Water Systems must retain these signed records for a minimum of 12 years.

Please include one copy of the sampling instructions that were provide to customers with your Lead Consumer Notice (LCN) submittal to ECERT: <https://pws.ncwater.org/ECERT/>