

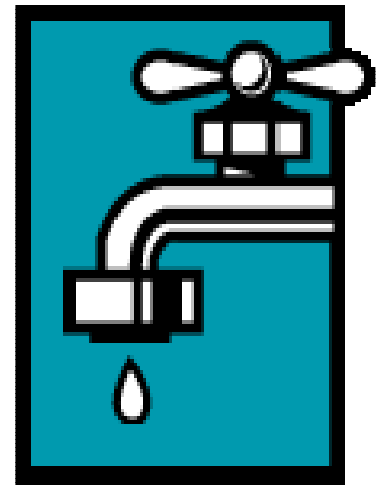


School Administrators

The EPA estimates that approximately 10 percent of a person's exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Please be aware of this issue and the steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.

BACKGROUND

The USEPA wants to help protect the roughly 53 million children in schools or child care facilities from lead exposure in water. Lead can cause serious health effects to young children. The Federal government passed a law in 1974 known as the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This law required the EPA to establish regulations for monitoring and providing safe *public* drinking water. However, the EPA's regulations did not include schools and child care facilities served by public water utilities. In 1988 Congress passed the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) aimed at identifying and reducing lead in drinking water at schools and child care facilities.



HOW LEAD GETS INTO DRINKING WATER

Other Sources of Lead Exposure in the Environment

- Lead-based paint
- Lead dust
- Contaminated soil

There are 2 ways in which lead can enter drinking water:

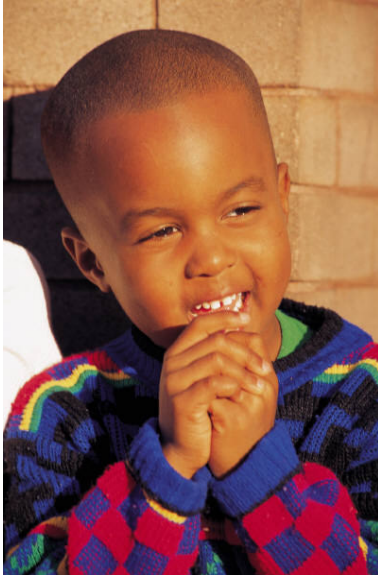
1. **At the water source (pollution).** The Cleveland Division of Water periodically tests Lake Erie water and sampling results have revealed either no lead, or very low levels. They also manage the chemistry of our drinking water and add orthophosphate to the water to minimize lead corrosion.

2. **Corrosion of plumbing materials (solder, brass fittings, sediment, and other lead containing materials).** This is the reason testing at each facility is key in determining if the school or child care facility has high levels of lead in its drinking water.

ACTION

The USEPA is recommending that all schools and child care facilities sample each source of drinking water to determine if there is a lead problem and to take the remedial actions necessary to bring down any high lead levels. Through accurate sampling and testing, a facility can determine if their drinking water at any outlet is above the lead action level of 20 ppb. A list of laboratories certified by the Ohio EPA to test for lead in drinking water can be found at:

www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/Documents/chemlabs.pdf.



RECOMMENDATIONS

All schools, no matter the date of construction, should be concerned. The following simple actions can be taken to help eliminate a potential lead hazard:

- Establish a flushing protocol of all drinking and cooking water sources.
- Clean aerators and screens of all drinking and cooking water faucets on a regular basis.
- Always use cold water for cooking.
- Remove any recalled Halsey Taylor Water Cooler constructed pre-1979.
- When fixtures are replaced, make sure the lead content of the new fixture is 0.25 % or less.

HELP

For more information, check out the EPA Guidance & Tools section, including the *3T's For Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools*, on the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater/schools. The guide provides schools with information on identifying potential lead sources, how to monitor school drinking water, how to resolve high lead levels, and how to communicate test results and a control program to the public. For support in establishing a sampling protocol, taking corrective steps, or notifying the public of sampling results, please contact your local health department or the City of Cleveland Division of Water.

Health Effects of Exposure to Lead

Infants and children exposed to lead can experience:

- Delays in neurological and physical development
- Learning disabilities
- Hyperactivity
- Lower IQ
- Hearing Loss
- Reduced attention span