

## Understanding Your 2-Step Lead in Water Test Results

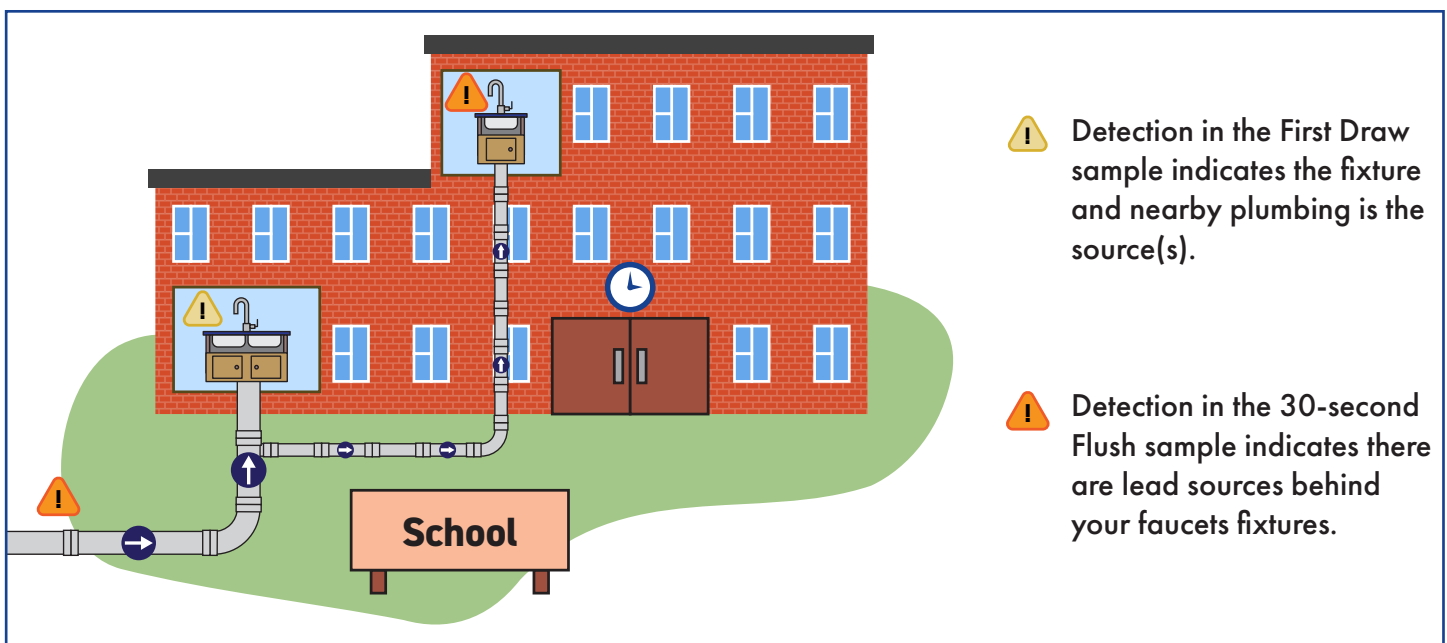
Your results show if lead is detected, and at what level, for each drinking or cooking water tap you sampled. Lead results are measured in parts per billion (ppb). One ppb is about the same as one drop of water in a backyard swimming pool.

One or more taps may have two sets of results—one for the first draw sample and one for the 30-second flush sample you collected. Recommendations are based on the level of lead found in each sample and the type of collection (first draw or flush sample).

### Sources of Lead in Your Water

The detection of lead in the first draw and flush samples provides insight on the location of potential sources of lead in your facility's plumbing system. High first draw samples indicate that your faucet fixture is likely the source of lead, while high 30-second flush samples can indicate there are lead sources in plumbing behind your faucet fixtures. If both samples are high, you may have multiple sources of lead in your plumbing, as shown in **Figure 1**.

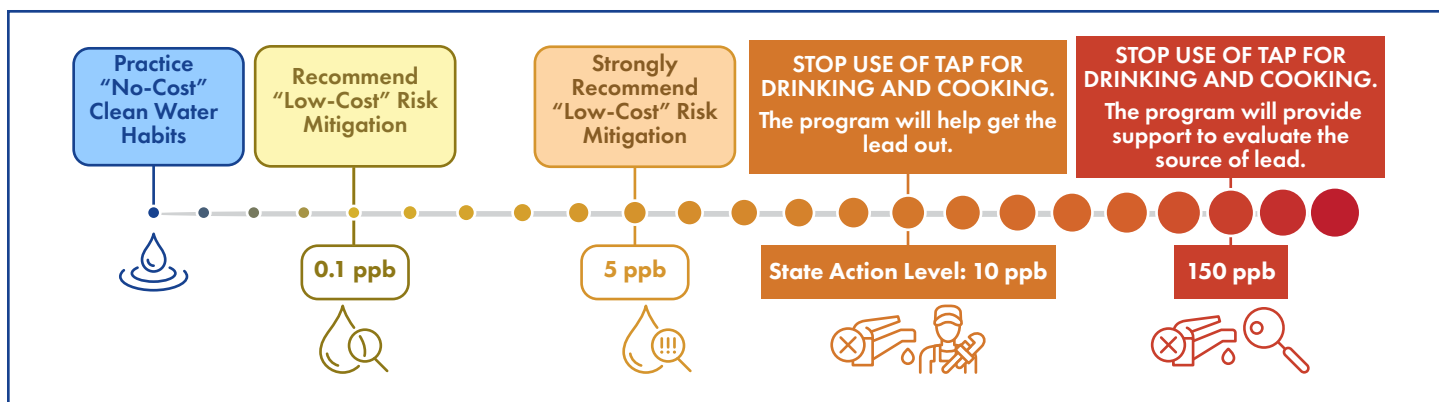
**Figure 1. Illustration of Distant and Nearby Sources of Lead.**



## Recommendations

We recommend different actions depending on the level of lead in your water, as shown in **Figure 2**.

**Figure 2. Illustration of Recommended Risk Mitigation Based on Test Results for Each Tap.**



### Results Below the Detection Limit (0.1 ppb)

If any results are below our laboratory detection limit, there is either no lead in your water or the amount is so low that our instruments cannot measure it (less than 0.1 ppb). Even if no lead is detected, we recommend practicing "**Clean Water Habits**."

#### Clean Water Habits for All Taps

- Use signs to designate low-lead taps for drinking and cooking.
- Use only the cold water setting, even when boiling water
- Flush water after 8 hours of no use
- Clean faucets and aerators regularly
- Maintain any filters per manufacturer instructions
- Choose certified lead-free products

### Any Detected Lead (over 0.1 ppb)

If your results are at or above our laboratory detection limit of 0.1 ppb, we *recommend* low-cost solutions to remove lead and reduce exposure. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that lead in water should not exceed 1 ppb. We *recommend* practicing **Clean Water Habits** and implementing "**Low-Cost Solutions**."

#### Low-Cost Solutions for Detected Lead

- Install a filter certified to remove lead
- Replace faucet fixture

### Results At or Above 5 ppb

For samples at or above 5 ppb, we **strongly recommend the low-cost solutions** to remove lead and reduce exposure.

### Results At or Above 10 ppb

If you have a sample that is at or above the state action level (10 ppb), then **immediately stop using tap for drinking and cooking**. You must restrict use of the tap until mitigation actions have been taken and further testing confirms the tap is below the state action level. Take action to remove lead from the tap by using the low-cost solutions previously recommended plus the recommendations below. The program will be in touch to help get the lead out.

#### Recommendations for Results At or Above 10 ppb

- Restrict use of tap, **DO NOT USE FOR DRINKING OR COOKING**.
- The program will be in touch for further support
- Take steps to remove lead including replacing fixture and installing and maintaining a lead-certified water filter
- After mitigation follow **Clean Water Habits**

## Results At or Above 150 ppb

There may be additional sources of lead in your piping or plumbing. Additionally, lead-certified filters are not certified for use above 150 ppb. If one of your taps is at or exceeds this level, **immediately stop using tap for drinking and cooking** and follow the steps below.

### Recommendations for Results At or Above 150 ppb

- Restrict use of tap, **DO NOT USE FOR DRINKING OR COOKING**.
- The program will be in touch for further support.
- **If the 30-second flush sample is less than 150 ppb**, you can safely use low-cost solutions at this tap.
- **If the 30-second flush sample is greater than 150 ppb**, water filters will not be effective. There is likely another source of lead in the plumbing other than the faucet that should be removed before installing a water filter. Do not use the tap. There may be additional mitigation funding from your utility or the NC Department of Environmental Quality. We can support you with connections as needed.

## More Resources

Check out additional resources from our program:

- [No-Cost and Low-Cost Solutions for Lead in Water](https://bit.ly/CWUSK-solutions) [bit.ly/CWUSK-solutions]
- [Checking for Lead Service Lines](https://bit.ly/CWUSK-LSL) [bit.ly/CWUSK-LSL]
- [How to Choose a Water Filter to Remove Lead](https://bit.ly/CWUSK-Filters) [bit.ly/CWUSK-Filters]
- [How to Install a Certified Lead-Free Faucet](https://bit.ly/CWUSK-Faucets) [bit.ly/CWUSK-Faucets]

## More Information

*This informational flyer was developed for RTI International's Clean Water for US Kids™ program.*

Clean Water for US Kids

[www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/contact](https://www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/contact)

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