

Form 1

Lead & Copper Sampling Instructions for PWS Operators

Lead & Copper Background

These kits are for Lead & Copper (“L&C”) samples and are required to be collected by both community and non-transient, non-community public water systems (“system”) minimally once every three years. L&C sampling is designed to help systems target tap sites with known or potential lead services lines and/or premise plumbing to replace these lines within the system.

Where Do I Sample?

Tap samples must be collected from pre-approved tap sample sites according to the system’s sample site plan. Please refer to *Creating a Lead & Copper Sample Site Plan* (“Form 3”).

Collection Timing & Location

Samples must be first draw tap collections and have stood motionless in the plumbing system of each sampling site for at least **six** hours. First draw samples from **residential** housing must be collected from the cold-water kitchen tap or bathroom sink tap. First-draw samples from a **non-residential** building must be collected at an interior tap from which water is typically drawn for consumption.

Note: Sampling sites may not include faucets that have point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment devices designed to remove inorganic contaminants. Do not remove the aerator from the faucet prior to sampling.

Sampling Instructions

1. L&C samples may be collected by the system, or the system may allow residents to collect first draw samples after instructing the residents of the sampling procedures. Please refer to *Homeowner as Sampler* (“Form 7”). **If a system allows residents to perform sampling, the system may not challenge, based on alleged errors in sample collection, the accuracy of sampling results.**
2. You will receive sample kits equal to the minimum number of tap sample sites required to be collected. **Please ensure tap sites still meet tiering criteria prior to sampling.**
3. L&C sample kits are 1 liter (“L”) plastic bottles that will be analyzed for both lead and copper. Don’t allow anything to touch the inside lip or cap of the sample bottle.

Instructions continued on back.

4. Complete the Sample Submission Form (“SSF”) with the name of the collector and the date/time of sample collection. Include the sample site location (e.g., street address or approved sample site name) and kitchen or bathroom tap. Attach **two** barcode labels on each lid and **one** on each sample bottle.
5. Place the open bottle under the tap to **immediately** collect the sample of the first draw.
6. Fill the bottle to at least the fill line and tighten the cap back onto the bottle. **A minimum of 1 L of water must be present, or the sample cannot be analyzed.**
7. L&C bottles do not need to be refrigerated. All samples must be shipped **within one week** of collection to meet the 14-day holding time.
 - o Multiple bottles may be shipped together in a larger box.
8. When shipping, place the sample(s) inside the liner bag of the box. Tightly zip tie the bag shut. Place the SSF on top and close the box.

Shipping Information

USPS Mailing Address:

Nebraska Health and Human Services
Public Health Environmental Laboratory
3701 S 14th St.
PO Box 22790
Lincoln, NE 68542-2790

Physical Address

(if using other delivery service):
Nebraska Health and Human Services
Public Health Environmental Laboratory
3701 S 14th St.
Lincoln, NE 68502

If you are using USPS, return mailing labels are included with each sampling kit for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department at 402-471-2186, or by email at DWEE.drinkingwater@nebraska.gov. You may also contact your Regional Compliance Officer.