

# Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



**Pipes:** Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water. Lead particles can also attach to the surface of galvanized pipes.

**Faucets and Fountains:** Fixtures inside your school, child care facility, or home may contain lead.

## Impacts of Lead Exposure on Children

**Young children, infants, and pregnant women are most vulnerable to lead. Even low levels of exposures to lead have significant effects on children.**



**Brain:** Lead can damage the brain and nervous system. The nervous system is the most sensitive organ system for lead exposure in children.

**Slowed Growth and Development:** Lead exposure can result in slowed growth and development in children. Young children are at higher risk due to their rapidly growing bodies.



**Learning and Behavior Problems:** Lead exposure in childhood can cause lowered IQ levels and decreased academic performance. Lead exposure can increase the risk of behavior problems and ADHD.

**Cardiovascular System:** Childhood lead exposure can lead to high blood pressure later in life.



**Hearing and Speech:** Lead exposure may cause hearing damage, speech problems, and impacts to balance.

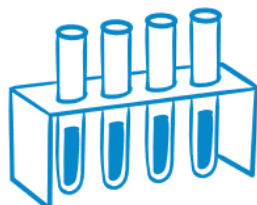
*Lead exposure can increase the risk of several health effects, including those listed above. However, lead exposure from drinking water does not mean an individual child will experience these effects or will have lead poisoning. Parents concerned about lead poisoning should contact their child's doctor and discuss blood lead testing. Visit [www.dhhs.ne.gov/lead](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/lead) for more information.*

## What can You Do

The Nebraska Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program has grant funds available for public and private schools, and licensed child care programs across the state to test for and remediate lead in drinking water fixtures to reduce children's exposure. Childhood lead poisoning is preventable, so identifying and reducing sources of exposure is crucial. Keep reading below to see what you CAN do.

### Test Your Sources

- DWEE offers 100% grant assistance for schools to conduct initial testing of drinking water fixtures.
- Fixtures include: bathroom faucets, kitchen faucets, food-prep stations, fountains, and water filler stations.
- Samples are taken from the fixture locations and sent to the Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab for processing.
- Remediation activities are discussed based on the sampling results.



### Actions at Every Level

- No Safe Level of Lead means DWEE offers 100% grant assistance to replace fixtures with a lead detection.
- The sampling must be processed through and obtain a result from the Nebraska Public Health Environmental Lab.
- To ensure the lead is no longer detected in the location, post-replacement testing is offered at no cost to the facility.



*Facilities interested in funds to address lead remediation or that have not yet tested their drinking water fixtures can do so by contacting the DWEE lead contact at [dwee.srf@nebraska.gov](mailto:dwee.srf@nebraska.gov).*