

NOTICE OF TAP WATER RESULTS LEAD AND COPPER COMPLIANCE SAMPLING PROGRAM

PWS Name: Thomas Prince School
PWS ID: 2241003

Date: October 25, 2024

Dear Consumer:

As you may know, Thomas Prince School is also a public water system (PWS) responsible for providing drinking water that meets state and federal standards. This notice reports the lead and copper results from the samples collected at this facility on September 20, 2024.

A total of 20 samples were taken and compliance is based on the 90th percentile for all of these samples. See the attached analytical report for the lead and copper results for each location that was sampled. The 90th percentile lead and copper levels in your water system are as follows:

LEAD: 0.0037 parts per million (ppm). This result is above/ below the Lead Action Level of 0.015 mg/l.
COPPER: 0.999 parts per million (ppm). This result is above/ below the Copper Action Level of 1.3 mg/l.

What Does This Mean?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) set the **Lead Action Level¹ for lead in drinking water at 0.015 ppm (or milligrams per liter (mg/l)) and the Copper Action Level at 1.3 ppm (or milligrams per liter (mg/l))**. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA and MassDEP also set a **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)² for lead of zero. The MCLG for copper is 1.3 mg/l.**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. More information on lead in drinking water and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We recommend the following tips to keep any potential lead and copper out of the water you drink:

- Most importantly – Flushing your water is the simplest way to reduce exposure to lead. When your water has been sitting for several hours, flush the tap until the water feels cold before use.
- Use only cold, fresh water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. Run the water for at least 1 minute or until after it turns cold.
- Do not boil the water to remove lead or copper.

For more information on lead in drinking water visit:

- <https://www.mass.gov/guides/is-there-lead-in-my-tap-water>
- <https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water>

For more information on copper in drinking water visit:

- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/copper-and-your-health>

MDPH Lead and Copper in Drinking Water FAQ and Quick Facts:

- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/sources-of-lead-besides-lead-paint>
- [Lead in Drinking Water FAQ \(https://www.mass.gov/media/1571266/\)](https://www.mass.gov/media/1571266/)
- [Copper in Drinking Water FAQ \(https://www.mass.gov/media/1571251/\)](https://www.mass.gov/media/1571251/)

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm>.

USEPA: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

If you have any questions regarding lead or copper in drinking water or your lead or copper sampling results, please feel free to contact: **Sherry Patch at 978-464-2102.**

Sincerely,

Thomas Prince School

¹ The Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

² The Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.



Lead and Copper Analysis Report

I. PWS INFORMATION: Please refer to your DEP Water Quality Sampling Schedule (WQSS) to help complete this form

PWS ID #: 2241003

City / Town: Princeton

PWS Name: Thomas Prince School

PWS Class: COM NTNC TNC

Routine or Special Sample	Original, Resubmitted or Confirmation Report			If Resubmitted, list below		
				(1) Reason for Resubmission		(2) Collection Date of Original Sample
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RS <input type="checkbox"/> SS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original	<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation	<input type="checkbox"/> Resample	<input type="checkbox"/> Reanalysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Report Correction

SAMPLE NOTES - (Such as, if a Manifold/Multiple sample, list the sources that were on-line during sample collection):

II. ANALYTICAL LABORATORY INFORMATION

Primary Lab MA Cert. #: M-CT008 Primary Lab Name: Microbac Laboratories, Inc. - Dayville Subcontract? (Y/N) N

Analyte	Action Level (mg/L)	Lab Method	MDL (mg/L)	MRL (mg/L)	Analysis Lab MA Cert#	Analysis Lab Name
Copper	1.3	EPA 200.8, Rv. 5.4 (1994)	0.00004	0.0010	M-CT008	Microbac Laboratories, Inc. - Dayville
Lead	0.015	EPA 200.8, Rv. 5.4 (1994)	0.00005	0.0010	M-CT008	Microbac Laboratories, Inc. - Dayville

LAB ANALYSIS COMMENTS	Result Qualifier	Result Qualifier Description

DEP Approved Sample Location (See DEP approved LCR plan for sampling locations)	Collection Date	Dilution Factor	LEAD		Result Qualifier	COPPER		Result Qualifier	Lab Sample ID#
			Date Analyzed	Result (mg/L)		Date Analyzed	Result (mg/L)		
01 Kitchen Sink- Wash	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0031		09/26/2024	0.713		D4I2037-01
02 Boys Bathroom Sink- Right Hand	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0017		09/26/2024	0.397		D4I2037-02
03 Classroom 100 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0037		09/26/2024	1.01		D4I2037-03
04 Classroom 110 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0163		09/26/2024	0.958		D4I2037-04
05 Classroom 112- Main Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.884		D4I2037-05
06 Handicapped/ Co-ed Restroom	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.494		D4I2037-06
07 Science Classroom 402 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.860		D4I2037-07
08 Boys Locker Room Restroom- Right Hand	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.829		D4I2037-08
09 Classroom 211 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0028		09/26/2024	0.863		D4I2037-09
10 Girls Restroom- Right Hand	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.382		D4I2037-10

I certify under penalties of law that I am the person authorized to fill out this form and the information contained herein is true, accurate and complete to the best extent of my knowledge

Primary Lab Director Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 9/27/2024

In accordance with 310 CMR 22.15(2), if mailing paper reports, TWQ copies of this report must be received by your MassDEP Regional Office no later than 10 days after the end of the month in which the results are received or no later than 10 days after the end of the monitoring period, whichever is sooner. Please note: Electronic reporting (eDEP) deadline is the same as above.

COM & NTNC Public Water Supplies must submit Forms LCR-D or LCR-E with this form to the appropriate DEP Regional Office.

DEP REVIEW STATUS (Initial & Date)	Review Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> WQTS Data Entered
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved		



Lead and Copper Analysis Report

I. PWS INFORMATION: Please refer to your DEP Water Quality Sampling Schedule (WQSS) to help complete this form

PWS ID #: 2241003

City / Town: Princeton

PWS Name: Thomas Prince School

PWS Class: COM NTNC TNC

Routine or Special Sample	Original, Resubmitted or Confirmation Report			If Resubmitted, list below		
				(1) Reason for Resubmission		(2) Collection Date of Original Sample
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RS <input type="checkbox"/> SS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original	<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation	<input type="checkbox"/> Resample	<input type="checkbox"/> Reanalysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Report Correction

SAMPLE NOTES - (Such as, if a Manifold/Multiple sample, list the sources that were on-line during sample collection).

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Lead	0.015	EPA 200.8, Rv. 5.4 (1994)	0.00005	0.0010	M-CT008	Microbac Laboratories, Inc. - Dayville

LAB ANALYSIS COMMENTS	Result Qualifier	Result Qualifier Description
	B2	The target analyte was detected in the method blank at or above the method acceptance criteria. The sample conc

DEP Approved Sample Location (See DEP approved LCR plan for sampling locations)		Collection Date	Dilution Factor	LEAD		Result Qualifier	COPPER		Result Qualifier	Lab Sample ID#
				Date Analyzed	Result (mg/L)		Date Analyzed	Result (mg/L)		
01	Classroom 209 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0021		09/26/2024	0.402	B2	D4I2034-01
02	Classroom 300 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.348	B2	D4I2034-02
03	Classroom 303 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0013		09/26/2024	0.633	B2	D4I2034-03
04	Classroom 304 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.799	B2	D4I2034-04
05	Classroom 307 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0011		09/26/2024	0.833	B2	D4I2034-05
06	Teachers Lunchroom - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.780	B2	D4I2034-06
07	Classroom 309 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0045		09/26/2024	0.999	B2	D4I2034-07
08	Classroom 308 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	0.0023		09/26/2024	1.00	B2	D4I2034-08
09	Classroom 313 - Sink	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.544	B2	D4I2034-09
10	Girls Restroom- Right Hand (Locker Room)	09/20/2024	1.0	09/26/2024	ND		09/26/2024	0.778	B2	D4I2034-10

I certify under penalties of law that I am the person authorized to fill out this form and the information contained herein is true, accurate and complete to the best extent of my knowledge

Primary Lab Director Signature: *B. Wain*

Date: 9/27/2024

In accordance with 310 CMR 22.15(2), if mailing paper reports, TWO copies of this report must be received by your MassDEP Regional Office no later than 10 days after the end of the month in which the results are received or no later than 10 days after the end of the monitoring period, whichever is sooner. Please note: Electronic reporting (eDEP) deadline is the same as above.

COM & NTNC Public Water Supplies must submit Forms LCR-D or LCR-E with this form to the appropriate DEP Regional Office.

DEP REVIEW STATUS (Initial & Date)	Review Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> WQTS Data Entered
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved		



Lead and Copper - 90th PERCENTILE COMPLIANCE Report

(For Systems Required to Collect More Than 5 Samples)

I. PWS INFORMATION: Please refer to your DEP Lead & Copper sampling plan for approved sampling locations.

PWS ID #:	2241003	City / Town:	Princeton
PWS Name:	Thomas Prince School	PWS Class:	COM <input type="checkbox"/> NTNC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sampling Frequency: (choose one)	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST SEMI-ANNUAL SAMPLING PERIOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REDUCED - EVERY THREE YEARS	
	<input type="checkbox"/> SECOND SEMI-ANNUAL SAMPLING PERIOD	<input type="checkbox"/> LEAD SERVICE LINE (LSL) REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	
	<input type="checkbox"/> REDUCED - ANNUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DEMONSTRATION	

Step 1: Place lead results in ascending order (from lowest to highest value) with lowest value at # 1, in the table below. Repeat for copper results. Please report results that are ND or less than (<) the laboratory's reported detection limit (MDL) as zero. Results at or above the laboratory's detection limit (MDL) but below 0.005 mg/L for lead or 0.05 mg/L for copper shall be reported as measured or may be reported as 0.0025 mg/L for lead or 0.025 mg/L for copper.

Step 2: Multiply the total number of samples collected by 0.9 (this is your 90th percentile sample number). Round to the nearest whole number, if necessary.

Step 3: Compare the sample result at the 90th percentile sample number against the corresponding action level. If the 90th percentile value is higher than the action level, then you have an exceedance and are required to contact MassDEP as soon as possible for information on compliance actions.

Note: Do not include school results on this form unless the PWS is a school. Remember, within 30 days of receipt, you must send individual results to the persons served at each sampled location as per 310 CMR 22.06B(6)(c)¹.

LEAD RESULTS (mg/L)								COPPER RESULTS (mg/L)							
#	Results	#	Results	#	Results	#	Results	#	Results	#	Results	#	Results	#	Results
1*	0	16	0.0028	31		46		1*	0.348	16	0.884	31		46	
2	0	17	0.0031	32		47		2	0.382	17	0.958	32		47	
3	0	18	0.0037	33		48		3	0.397	18	0.999	33		48	
4	0	19	0.0045	34		49		4	0.402	19	1.00	34		49	
5	0	20	0.0163	35		50		5	0.494	20	1.01	35		50	
6	0	21		36		51		6	0.544	21		36		51	
7	0	22		37		52		7	0.633	22		37		52	
8	0	23		38		53		8	0.713	23		38		53	
9	0	24		39		54		9	0.778	24		39		54	
10	0	25		40		55		10	0.780	25		40		55	
11	0.0011	26		41		56		11	0.799	26		41		56	
12	0.0013	27		42		57		12	0.829	27		42		57	
13	0.0017	28		43		58		13	0.833	28		43		58	
14	0.0021	29		44		59		14	0.860	29		44		59	
15	0.0023	30		45		60		15	0.863	30		45		60	

*Lowest Value

My system was required to collect: 20 lead and copper samples. My system collected: 20 lead and copper samples.

Total # of samples collected: 20 x 0.9 = 18 This number is my system's 90th percentile sample #.

Circle the 90th percentile sample # for both lead and copper in the table above, and enter the results in the appropriate spaces below.

<u>0.0037</u> (Lead result at 90 th percentile sample#)	Compared to <u>0.015 mg/L</u> (The lead action level)	<u>0.999</u> (Copper result at 90 th percentile sample#)	Compared to <u>1.3 mg/L</u> (The copper action level)
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II. CERTIFICATION:

Check and complete the correct statement for lead as determined by the above results. If you have an exceedance and you are a community system you must comply with the Consumer Confidence Rule (CCR) reporting requirements in accordance with 310 CMR 22.16A(4)(i)6.

- My system was **at or below** the lead action level.
- My system **exceeded** the lead action level and _____ sampling sites **exceeded** the lead action level.
(Insert # of samples)

Check and complete the correct statement for copper as determined by the above results. If you have an exceedance and you are a community system you must comply with the Consumer Confidence Rule (CCR) reporting requirements in accordance with 310 CMR 22.16A(4)(i)6.

- My system was **at or below** the copper action level.
- My system **exceeded** the copper action level and _____ sampling sites **exceeded** the copper action level.
(Insert # of samples)

My signature below indicates that all sampling sites on this report have been previously approved in writing by the DEP, and both the sites and sampling procedures used comply with 310 CMR 22.06B(7). I certify under penalty of law that I am the person authorized to fill out this form and the information contained herein is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Certified Operator _____ Title _____
Signature of PWS or Owner's Representative _____ Date 10/1/2024

Please submit Form LCR-C along with this form.

Rev. 02- 2019

Page 1 of 1

¹ The Consumer notification form template is available at: [https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-and-copper-forms-and-templates#lead-and-copper-rule-\(lcr\)](https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-and-copper-forms-and-templates#lead-and-copper-rule-(lcr))

Fact Sheet - Copper and Your Health¹

In 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established guidelines for controlling lead and copper levels in public water supplies. The information contained in this presentation will discuss the health effects of copper and ways to reduce exposure to copper in drinking water.

What is copper? Copper is a reddish metal that occurs naturally in rock, soil, water, sediment, and air. Its unique chemical and physical properties have made it one of the most commercially important metals. Since copper is easily shaped or molded, it is commonly used to make pennies, electrical wiring, and water pipes. Copper compounds are also used as an agricultural pesticide, and to control algae in lakes and reservoirs. Copper also occurs naturally in plants and animals. It is an essential element for all known living organisms, including humans. However, very large single or long-term intakes of copper may harm your health.

How are people exposed to copper? Copper and its compounds are common in the environment. You may be exposed to copper by breathing air, eating food, or drinking water containing copper. You may also be exposed by skin contact with soil, water, or other copper-containing substances.

Copper forms different compounds when it joins with one or more other chemicals. These may be naturally-occurring or man-made. Most copper compounds found in air, soil, and water are strongly attached to dust or embedded in minerals, and cannot easily enter the body. These forms are not likely to affect your health. Other forms become dissolved in water and are not attached to other particles. In this form, copper is more likely to affect your health. Levels of copper found naturally in ground water and surface water are generally very low; about 4 micrograms of copper in one liter of water (4 ug/l) or less. However, drinking water may contain higher levels of a dissolved form of copper.

High levels of copper occur if corrosive water comes in contact with copper plumbing and copper-containing fixtures in the water distribution system. If corrosive water remains motionless in the plumbing system for six hours or more, copper levels may exceed 1,000 ug/l. The level of copper in drinking water increases with the corrosivity of the water and the length of time it remains in contact with the plumbing.

What are the health effects of copper? Copper in our diet is necessary for good health. You eat and drink about 1,000 micrograms (1,000 ug) of copper per day. Drinking water normally contributes approx. 150 ug/day. Immediate effects from drinking water which contains elevated levels of copper include vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps, and nausea.

The seriousness of these effects can be expected to increase with increased copper levels or length of exposure. Children under one year of age are more sensitive to copper than adults. Long-term exposure (more than 14 days) to copper in drinking water which is much higher than 1,000 ug/l has been found to cause kidney and liver damage in infants. Other persons who are highly susceptible to copper toxicity include people with liver damage or Wilson's disease.

How much copper is safe? On the average, drinking water accounts for less than 5% of our daily copper intake. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has determined that copper levels in drinking water should not exceed 1300 ug/l. No adverse health effects would be expected if this level is not exceeded. Measures should be taken to reduce exposure to copper if this level is exceeded.

How do I know if my drinking water has too much copper? Because copper exhibits these harmful health effects, and because drinking water may be a significant route of exposure to copper, it is important to know how much copper is in your drinking water. You may find that there is a metallic taste in your drinking water before copper levels are high enough to cause adverse health effects. You may also notice blue or bluegreen stains around sinks and plumbing fixtures. The only way to be certain of the copper level in your drinking water supply is to have the water tested. It is recommended that you use a laboratory that is state certified to analyze copper levels in drinking water. If you are being served by a public water system, the owner of the utility will have results of copper sampling which has been done in parts of the distribution system.

How do I know if my school drinking water has too much copper? In Massachusetts school officials should use the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sampling procedures identified for lead in drinking water to evaluate their schools for copper. The sample collection protocol for copper is the same as for lead. A copy of the DEP guidelines titled "Recommended Remediation Actions to Reduce or Eliminate Lead Exposure from Drinking Water in Schools" is located at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/dws/lead.htm>.

What should I do if my drinking water has too much copper? The easiest and most effective method for reducing exposure to copper is to avoid drinking or cooking with water that has been in contact with your house plumbing for more than six hours. When first drawing water in the morning or after a work day, flush the system by running the cold water faucet until the water gets as cold as possible. (If you live in an apartment complex, flushing the system may take longer). Water used for showering or washing also helps flush the system, but each faucet where water is drawn for drinking or cooking purposes should be flushed separately.

Another option for reducing your exposure to copper is to purchase bottled water. This may be a useful option, particularly if it will be used by young children as drinking water, or for making infant formula. However, you should exercise care to obtain bottled water which meets all drinking water standards. If you are experiencing elevated copper levels in drinking water, it may be likely that lead levels are also elevated. This is especially true if the plumbing system in your home or apartment contains lead solder joints, lead service lines, or brass fixtures. Since lead and copper enter drinking water under similar conditions, it is advisable to test for lead when testing for copper.

What action has the federal government taken to reduce my exposure to copper? The U.S. EPA promulgated National Primary Drinking Water Standards for lead and copper on June 7, 1991. These standards are applicable to all public water systems, and require them to begin monitoring for lead and copper at consumer taps no later than July, 1993. If the EPA action level of 1,300 ug/l for copper is exceeded, the utility must conduct further testing to determine if the corrosivity of the water is contributing to an increase in the copper levels. They are also required to implement optimum corrosion control measures to reduce the corrosivity of the water to acceptable levels. If you have questions regarding copper monitoring, contact your water utility.

Definitions: Action Level (AL): is concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. The AL for copper is 1,300 ug/L (1.3 mg/L). **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** the level of a contaminant in drinking water at or below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. The MCLG for copper is 1,300 ug/L.

If you need additional information regarding copper in drinking water contact the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770 or Program.director-DWP@state.ma.us or Frank Niles at 617-574-6871 or Frank.R.Niles@state.ma.us.

¹Excerpt from Wisconsin website

MassDEP Lead Fact Sheet

Is There Lead In My Tap Water? You probably know that lead can be harmful to your health. Just how harmful depends on how much lead gets into your body and stays there. Lead can come from a number of places: old paint, contaminated soil and, to a lesser but still significant degree, drinking water. Knowing how lead gets into your tap water - and what you can do to get it out - will reduce the health risks to you and your family.

What are the Health Effects of Lead? Too much lead in the body can cause serious damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system and red blood cells. Infants and young children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning. Even at low levels, it can affect a child's physical development and ability to learn.

Where does Lead Come from? Lead occurs naturally in many places, but usually not in more than trace amounts. In other words, there may be some lead in the reservoir, river or well that supplies your drinking water, but not at high enough levels to be considered a threat to your health.

On the other hand, the network of pipes and indoor plumbing through which that water travels - even the faucet itself- may contain lead, or have been connected with lead fittings or solder. If so, your tap water can contain harmful levels of lead.

Should you be concerned? That depends, in part, on where you live. In some communities, water distribution lines still have lead service connections. And, if the water in your community is especially acidic or "soft," it can be very corrosive. The more corrosive it is, the more lead it can dissolve as it stands in pipes.

What Can You Do? Check with your local water department to see whether the service connection to your building contains lead.

The age of your home will tell you a lot too. Homes built before 1940 may have lead pipes. And lead solder was used to join copper pipes until Massachusetts banned it at the beginning of 1986. If you aren't sure about the pipes in your home and want to know more about them, have a plumber inspect them.

If your pipes are made of lead, they should be replaced as soon as possible. If you have copper pipes joined with lead solder, it's a good idea to routinely flush the plumbing in your home before taking a drink. That's because water standing unused for as little as six hours in pipes joined with lead solder can contain harmful levels of lead.

But the news isn't all bad. Lead solder poses a decreasing risk over time. As the years go by, a coating builds up inside pipes and prevents standing water from dissolving lead connections. In many cases, pipes that are more than five years old no longer pose a problem.

Whether or not you have had your water tested for lead, there are a few simple changes you can make in your habits to protect yourself and your family:

- In the morning, run the faucet where you normally take your first drink or fill up your coffee pot until the water turns as cold as it's going to get. This flushes out the water that has been standing in your pipes overnight. If no one is home and using water during the day, do the same thing in the evening.
- Always use cold tap water for cooking, drinking and preparing baby formula or foods. Hot water dissolves metals faster.
- At the day's end, fill a jug with drinking water for later use.
- Have an electrician check your wiring. Corrosion within your plumbing may be greater when grounding wires from your home's electrical system are attached.

What About Treatment Devices? Be careful if you're thinking about buying a home water treatment device for lead removal. While there are units listed by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) as effective at removing lead, Massachusetts law requires that they be approved by the Board of State Examiners and Gasfitters and installed by a licensed plumber. Once in place, these units must be maintained. And, the only way to ensure they're still getting the lead out is to have your water tested from time to time. This can get expensive.

Your best defense against lead in drinking water is knowledge. Learn as much as you can about the pipes leading to your house and the plumbing that runs to your faucets. Then, if necessary, routinely flush out water that may contain lead. It's simple to do and your good health, as well as your family's, may depend on it.

Definitions:

Action Level (AL) is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. The **AL** for lead is 15 ug/L.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): for the purpose of 310 CMR 22.16A(4)(c)1 means the level of a contaminant in drinking water at or below which there is no known or expected risk to health. **MCLGs** allow for a margin of safety. The **MCLG** for lead is 0 ug/L.

Where Can You Get More Information?

MassDEP has available a [list of laboratories](#) certified by the state of Massachusetts to test for lead in tap water.

Contact:

[MassDEP Drinking Water Program](#) One Winter Street Boston, MA
02108 617-292-5770

For general information on lead poisoning in children, contact:

[Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
305 South Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
1-800-532-9571