



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Division of Water Supply & Geoscience

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<http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/>

As part of the commitment to clean and safe drinking water shared by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and your water purveyor, you are being asked to provide a sample of your drinking water so that it can be tested for the presence of lead and/or copper.

The federal Lead and Copper Rule, (40 C.F.R. Section 141.80 to 141.91), requires public water systems to conduct sampling for lead and copper at residential homes that may be most likely to have lead or both lead and copper elements present in their water, usually due to the presence in a home of lead pipes, plumbing fittings, fixtures, solder and flux. Customer participation is necessary to comply with this regulatory requirement.

Exposure to such metals as lead and/or copper, can accumulate in the body over time and lead to adverse health effects. Young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable because the physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels in children than in adults. A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a significant effect on a child. In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, as well as impaired hearing and formation, along with decreased function of blood cells.

Your willingness to participate is crucial to monitoring the levels of lead in drinking water within the water company's distribution system. These samples help assess whether lead and copper are present at unsafe levels and, if so, what steps should be taken to minimize a customer's exposure through drinking water. The public water system is required to sample a specific number of sites (i.e. homes) from kitchen and/or bathroom taps only. The public water system is also required to continue using the same sites each monitoring period unless plumbing changes (i.e. lead pipes have been removed) have been made so that the site no longer meets the required criteria. The public water system will analyze the water sample free of charge, and notify you of the results within 30 days from receipt.

Having a general knowledge of your home's water quality is important as it can directly impact your health and the health of your family. For more drinking water information regarding lead and/or copper please visit New Jersey's Division of Water Supply & Geoscience's Lead Webpage for consumers at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>.