

Milwaukee Water Works

Laboratories Certified to Test for Lead in Drinking Water.

For a full list of DNR-certified labs: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists>

Northern Lake Service, (262) 547-3406 <http://www.nlslab.com/>

2420 N. Grandview Blvd., Waukesha, WI 53188

Residential Lead Test Kit = \$35.00 + \$20 shipping (or pick up in person).

Suburban Laboratories SE WI, (262) 661-5170 <https://suburbanlabs.com/drinkingwater/>

10520 N. Baehr Rd, Ste J., Mequon, WI 53092

Residential Lead Test Kit = \$100 + shipping.

Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene, (800) 442-4618

2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison

Cost per Lead sample = \$32.00 (+ shipping) for results in 10 days

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/environmental/water/public-environmental-and-water-testing-prices/>

What to know before testing your water for lead:

1. **The EPA action level for lead in water is 15 µg/L.** (micrograms per Liter)
2. **Different labs use different testing methods and equipment**, which can result in different reporting limits. This means you could receive a result with this symbol before it: < (example result: <1 µg/L). The '<' symbol means 'less than,' which indicates that the lab's method cannot report numbers below that level (this is their reporting limit). The lab has confirmed that your result is between zero and their reporting limit, but they can't report anything more specific because their equipment can't detect amounts less than 1.
3. **How you collect your sample affects what you learn about your water.** Most labs will recommend you let the water sit unused in the pipes for at least 6-8 hours before collection. This is to simulate the worst-case scenario for lead, since it gives time for lead to leach from the pipes into the water. If this is your method, be sure you are not flushing the toilet, running the washing machine or using any other water in the home during those 6-8 hours.
 - a. If you collect a 'first draw' sample (the first water that comes out of the faucet after 6-8 hours), any lead you measure is likely leaching from your internal plumbing and fixtures.
 - b. If you let the water run for about 45 seconds to 1 minute, any lead you may detect and measure is likely leaching from your service line (the pipe that connects your home to the water main in the street).
 - c. If you let the water run for about 3 minutes or longer, it is more representative of the water in the water main.

Note: These timings assume typical length of plumbing for a single family home.
4. Always collect samples from the **cold-water tap** in your kitchen or bathroom (where you would normally get drinking water from). Hot tap water should NOT be used for drinking or cooking because hot water heaters can contribute contaminants to your water.

If you have questions about interpreting results of the tests, please call the City of Milwaukee Health Department, (414) 286-3521.

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