

LEAD AND COPPER TESTING INSTRUCTIONS

WHERE TO SAMPLE: Community water systems monitor at **interior** taps in customers' homes in the kitchen or bathroom. **Non-communities** sample at places where people commonly drink water (water fountains, dining areas, break rooms, etc.).

HOW TO SAMPLE:

- A. Samples may be taken by water system **employees** or **residents** of homes being sampled. Enclosed in this kit is a page of directions the utility personnel may distribute to the collectors/homeowners and is intended for the utility company's use only.
- B. All lead and copper samples must be **first draw** – that means:
 - 1. Water must not have been turned on for at least **6 hours** before samples are drawn.
 - 2. Place container under faucet. **Slowly** fill the container with the first liter of water from the tap.
 - 3. The **Chain of Custody** sheet included in this packet must be completely filled out.

DETERMINING TIER: “Tier” is a description of the type of plumbing in each building where samples are collected. If plumbing is varied in the building, base your description on that closest to the sampling point. The categories listed below are for community systems. Non-communities should disregard the “single family” wording of the site descriptions. Here are the tier types:

- A. Tier 1 – single family structure with lead service line or lead interior pipes or lead solder that joins copper pipes (installed after 1982).
- B. Tier 2 – same as tier 1, but is a multiple family dwelling.
- C. Tier 3 – structure with lead solder joining copper pipes installed in 1982 or before.
- D. F-1 Site – structure with lead-free plumbing. This may include plastic, galvanized or copper with flair fittings.
- E. F-2 Site – any site in a structure with a water softener or other treatment device.

Tier 1 sites are a **priority**, followed by Tier 2, Tier 3 and F-1 sites. **F-2** sites are to be used only if other sites are not available.

WHEN SAMPLES MUST BE COLLECTED: All samples do not need to be taken on the same day. **Samples do not have to be refrigerated.**

All lead and copper samples must be returned to the laboratory within 14 days of collection of the first sample or risk being rejected.

AFTER SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED: Containers should be placed in the box in which they were received and returned to the Environmental Services Program using the address label included. **All** samples should be mailed at the same time. Return postage is **not** provided and is the responsibility of the water system. For these lead and copper samples, another shipping option is to drop them off and have them returned via the courier service that water systems use for their bacteriological (coliform) samples. The address is:

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Environmental Services Program
2710 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65109

QUESTIONS? Lead and Copper monitoring is more demanding than most other sampling you are required to do. If you have any questions, call Lead and Copper Coordinator at the Public Drinking Water Program, Jefferson City, at (573) 751-1406 or (800) 361-4827.