

Interpreting Your Lead Results

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Outlet ID	A unique number used to identify each drinking water outlet (e.g., drinking fountain, classroom sink, or kitchen faucet) where samples are collected.
Outlet Location	The specific location (floor number and room number) where the drinking water outlet is located.
Initial First Draw Result (ppb)	A first draw sample is collected immediately after turning on the faucet or fixture. Water was unused for 8–18 hours. Parts per billion (ppb) is a measure of the concentration of lead in water.
Follow Up Flush Result (ppb)	A sample collected after water has run for 30 seconds, following the first draw. Helps identify if lead is coming from the fixture or building plumbing.
Program Action Level (15 ppb)	Set by the State of Tennessee. If results are at or above this level, further action should be taken for that outlet (e.g., fixture replacement, installation of a certified filter, or other remediation).
Non-Detect (ND)	Means no lead was detected above the laboratory's reporting limit.
No Further Action	The concentration is <1 ppb, meaning that lead was not detected in the sample at or above 1 ppb.
Action Suggested	You may also choose to take action on drinking water outlets with lead below 15 ppb, as there is no known safe level of lead for children.
Take Action	At minimum, if a test result is 15 ppb or higher, the outlet should not be used for drinking or cooking until the source of lead is corrected.
Result Notes	Additional information related to sample collection, the drinking water outlet, or remediation measures.

Understanding Your Results

Lead in drinking water test results provide a **snapshot in time**. Lead levels can vary depending on factors such as:

- How long water sits in pipes before use
- Changes in plumbing or building use
- Water chemistry and temperature
- Whether fixtures or plumbing materials contain lead

These results apply only to the outlet tested, not the entire building, at the specific day and time it was tested. Additional testing of outlets may be necessary to fully understand the sources of lead.

The data displayed reflect the results of water samples collected from public schools and licensed child care centers across the State of Tennessee. All laboratory analysis is performed in accordance with EPA Method 200.8 for lead in drinking water. The results represent lead concentrations in the specific water samples collected at a particular point in time. Lead in drinking water originates from lead-containing plumbing materials. It is important to note that lead levels can fluctuate due to various factors including changes in water usage, stagnation time, plumbing modifications, and variations in the water supply. Sample sites are selected based on observations of water fixtures used by students and staff for drinking or food preparation. However, they do not include every water outlet or scenario in the facility (e.g., non-potable locations or fixtures used exclusively for cleaning). The Tennessee Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Centers program is an ongoing effort to reduce lead in drinking water through testing, mitigation, and routine maintenance.