

Lead Testing for DCFS Day Care Facilities

225 ILCS 10/5.9 and Public Act 99-0922 require water testing for all Licensed Day Care Homes, Group Day Care Homes and Centers constructed prior to January, 2000. The following are recommended collection procedures to test for lead in drinking water. Testing must be performed by laboratories currently certified in Illinois to test lead in drinking water.

*Water sampling should be conducted first thing in the morning to allow the home/facility to return to normal operations.

* Read all instructions before beginning sample collection.

1. The owner/manager of the facility must refrain from using the water for a minimum of 6 hours prior to testing.
 - Water stagnation is critical. Do not take a water sample unless you can verify that the water has been stagnant; meaning the owner/manager cannot flush the toilet, take a shower, use any faucets, and must turn off the icemaker or any other fixtures that automatically use water for at least 6 hours, but not more than 18 hours prior to collection.
 - The date and time the water was last used needs to be confirmed by the sample collector and recorded on the Chain of Custody form.
 - Usually, samples are taken early in the morning.
 - To assist the owner/manager in avoiding water usage during the (minimum) 6 hour stagnation period, advise them to collect water in a pitcher for drinking and a bucket of water for flushing the toilet, the day prior.
2. Day of the sample collection at the day care facility, water samples should be the first taken.
 - The first set of sequential samples should be taken from the **kitchen** faucet.
 - The second set of sequential samples should be the refrigerator's water dispenser (if present).
 - If the refrigerator has an automatic icemaker fill a 1 L collection container (no second sample).
 - The next set of sequential samples is from the sink in the bathroom (shower/tub not required).
 - Collect water samples from all drinking water sources in the home, with the exception of the tub/shower.
 - Only cold water samples should be collected.
3. When taking the water samples, make sure to have all bottles labeled (in order to differentiate them) and ready before turning on the cold water faucet. Do not open the sample bottles until you are ready to collect each sample. Use the Chain of Custody form to record all sampling information. Do not remove any aerators from the fixture.
 - A. Place the 1st bottle under the faucet and turn on the cold water, record the time, and turn the faucet on at a "pencil sized" flow rate.
 - B. Once the bottle is completely filled (but not over flowing), quickly place the cap on the bottle (labeled #1).
 - C. Let the water run freely at full force for 30 seconds down the drain.
 - D. Repeat steps A. and B. to capture the next 250ml of flow, quickly place the cap on the bottle (labeled #2), and record the time.
 - E. Continue collecting samples at the other sources of drinking water. Repeat steps A through D and label the bottles for the second sample location as #4 and #5 and so on for all samples collected.
4. Procedure for appliances with water and ice dispensers:
 - A. For appliance with water dispenser, repeat steps A through D and label the bottles appropriately.
 - B. For appliance with ice dispenser, fill a 1 L collection bottle. The larger bottle size should ensure at least 250 ml of liquid is collected. Label the bottle with the appropriate # and record the time of collection. See the EPA's 3Ts guide for collecting additional samples of the icemaker if required.
5. Ensure the Chain of Custody form is completely filled out for all samples collected at the facility, including the collectors name and signature.
6. Return the samples to the lab as soon as possible.

Note: Water samples should be collected in 250 ml clean containers. Labs must use EPA approved drinking water methods and able to achieve a minimum reporting level of at least 2.0 ppb.