



**Monterey County Health Department  
Consolidated Environmental Laboratory**

1270 Natividad Rd.  
Salinas, CA 93906  
(831) 755-4516

**PURPOSE:** Materials used to construct the water supply system (service lines, pipes, brass and bronze fixtures and solders and fluxes) contain lead and copper. These metals contaminate drinking water as a corrosion by-product. The first water that comes from the tap after long periods of nonuse has the highest concentrations of these contaminants. Excessive exposure to these chemicals can have adverse health effects. These chemicals must not exceed maximum contaminant levels established by state and federal regulation.

**SAMPLE COLLECTION:** Water samples taken for lead and copper analysis must be collected after water has been sitting in the pipes for an extended period of time (i.e. no water use during this period). Because of this requirement, either early mornings or evenings upon returning from work are the best times for collecting samples. The procedure is described in more detail below:

1. A minimum 6-hour period during which there is no water use throughout the house must be achieved prior to sampling. We recommend that either early mornings or evenings upon returning home are the best sampling times to ensure the necessary stagnant water conditions exist.
2. Use a kitchen or bathroom cold-water faucet to collect the sample. Place the clean plastic one-liter sample bottle provided by the laboratory below the faucet and gently open the cold-water tap. Fill the sample bottle and turn off the water. No preservative is needed at the time of collection.
3. Label the sample with sample identification, date and time of collection.
4. Complete the laboratory form including mailing address, name of sample collector, description of sample point, date and time of collection, and test ordered (i.e. "Lead & Copper").

**CARE OF SAMPLE**

Samples should be delivered to the laboratory within 36 hours of collection. Samples can be dropped off directly at the laboratory, Monday thru Friday, or at one of the following health department offices:

Monterey Co. Environmental Health  
1200 Aguajito Rd.  
Monterey, CA  
831-647-7654

Monterey Co. Environmental Health  
200 Broadway St. Suite 70  
King City, CA  
831-386-6899

Monterey - Drop off by 9:00 a.m.

King City – Drop off by 9:00 a.m.

**FEE FOR TESTING**

The current fee for Lead & Copper testing is \$50 per sample. If you do not have an account with our laboratory, you must pay in advance for this testing. Clients who have an account will be billed at the end of the month that the results are reported.

**INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS**

Federal and State drinking water standards establish action levels for lead and copper in public water systems serving 50,000 or fewer people. The action levels for lead and copper are 0.015 mg/L and 1.3 mg/L respectively; if more than 10% of samples on the system exceed either of these action levels, treatment techniques may be required. If you have any questions regarding laboratory results please call. We appreciate your business and look forward to providing you the highest quality laboratory services.