

Types of actions that can be taken when results for lead are above 5 ppb

Immediate

Action facilities can take as soon as lab results arrive

Respond quickly, protect public health, and preserve trust.

- Take fixtures with elevated lead offline
- Post signs such as “Do not Use” or “For handwashing only
- If signs are used make sure they are appropriate for the people using the building
- Communicate results and corrective actions to your community as required

Interim

Protect children’s health in the short term

Identify lead sources, select the most effective and efficient solution while continuing to keep the community safe.

- Continue to keep fixtures offline or
- Provide point-of-use devices such as filtered fountains, bottle fillers or pitcher filters
- Ensure devices meet NSF 53 and 58 certification for lead reduction
- Clean aerators
- Develop and document flushing procedures for staff
- Provide bottled water in extreme cases
- Provide ongoing communication

Permanent

Ways to reduce lead in drinking water long term

When you have found the source of the lead problem, choose the “right” strategy for your facility in the long term.

- Permanently remove fixtures
- Replace fixtures, nearby materials and lead service lines
- Install automatic solenoid flushing devices
- Install and maintain filtration devices
- Re-test to ensure effectiveness
- Provide ongoing communication

Buildings may use one or more solutions depending on their specific situation.