



Water Sampling at Child Care Facilities in Illinois: Dos and Don'ts

Dos

- » Assemble a team to help plan and implement lead in water testing and mitigation (if lead is found)
- » Communicate with parents before, during, and after sampling occurs
- » Conduct a walkthrough of your facility to identify all drinking water sources and give each sampling location a unique name
- » Contact an IEPA or IEPA approved lab to order sampling instructions and supplies
- » Fill out your chain of custody form throughout the sampling process
- » Ensure your water stagnates for at least 6 hours but no longer than 18 hours before beginning sampling
- » Shut off icemakers and any devices that use water during the stagnation period
- » Tape off fixtures so your water is not disturbed prior to testing
- » Collect samples early in the morning before children and staff arrive
- » Collect cold water samples using a pencil sized flow
- » Collect a First Draw and 30 second flush sample at each drinking water outlet
- » Collect a sample from your automatic ice machine
- » Send your samples to an IEPA or IEPA approved for processing as soon as possible
- » Keep a personal record of which sample ID corresponds to each fixture
- » Tightly close bottle lids before mailing or delivering them back to the lab as they can come loose in transit
- » Analyze your test results and develop a mitigation plan if any outlets have lead at or above 2.01 ppb
- » Post your results and mitigation plan (if needed) in your facility
- » Share your test results and mitigation plan with your DCFS licensing representative

Don'ts

- » Do not collect samples after a long holiday or weekend
- » Do not remove aerators prior to testing
- » Do not open bottles until you are ready to collect a sample