

## LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING

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We have been receiving a lot of inquiries lately concerning the lead & copper rule, primarily concerning sampling techniques. Below are some sampling techniques and protocol that may be of some assistance.

### **PRIOR TO SAMPLING**

- 1. Have a water system employee do the actual sampling.** Water customers are like all of us. Our lives often get hectic and hurried. Don't let an error by a consumer cause your system a compliance issue.
- 2. Flush all faucets in residence 5 minutes or longer.** The water in tap being sampled is to sit stagnate for 6 hours. Prior to this time it is a good idea to flush all taps until water is good and cold.
- 3. Turn off faucets slowly.** Velocity in the piping will cause copper to leach more aggressively,
- 4. Sample 6 hours later.** Do not allow the water to stand any longer than the required 6 hour period.

### **SAMPLING**

- 1. Turn on faucet slowly and only until there is a small steady stream.** Take at least 1 minute to fill the container.
- 2. Samples do not need to be taken all on the same date.** Mail samples as you collect them. Be creative, sample on weekends when homes are more accessible. Sample in the evening as opposed to morning, i.e., flush the system at noon and sample at 6 pm.
- 3. Avoid dead ends or low flow areas of the system.** Stay as close to the water source as possible.
- 4. Never sample from a home with a water softener or other home treatment device,** even if there is a line dedicated to untreated water.