



## Lead / Copper Rule Sampling Guide

### **Lead / Copper Rule General Information:**

Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, and water. It builds up in the body over many years and may result in damage to the brain, red blood cells, and kidneys. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion, or wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and lead piping. The presence of copper in drinking water is also primarily a result of corrosion. Acute exposure to copper can result in nausea and diarrhea.

### **Sampling Procedures:**

1. Obtain sample containers from the laboratory. MTA uses 1 liter plastic containers without any preservative added to minimize injury.
2. A FIRST DRAW sample must be pulled. This is a sample that is taken along the distribution system, usually in individual homes. The sample must be pulled after it has sat for a minimum of 6 hours, but no more than 24 hours.
3. Do not flush the tap prior to collection. Simply open the tap and collect the first water. Fill sample container to the bottom of the neck.
4. Collect samples where water is drawn primarily for drinking. Examples are drinking fountains, kitchen sinks, break room faucets, etc. Do not sample from slop sinks, hose bibbs, etc.
5. The State determines the number of sample stations that will be required for a particular water system. Small water systems generally only have to sample 5 to ten stations annually.

**Please contact our Client Services Department for a bottle order or any additional questions at (800) 268-7021!**