



Lehigh County Authority

610-437-7515 Allentown customers
610-398-1444 Suburban customers
lehighcountyauthority.org
service@lehighcountyauthority.org

How to get your home's water tested for lead

Lead in drinking water has become a hot-button issue across the nation following the 2016 water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Lehigh County Authority (LCA) has a number of provisions in place for testing for lead in our water and keeping it safe for all customers. Still, there are a number of things that you can do to make sure that lead is not an issue in your home. The most important thing is being informed and taking action if you think lead might be an issue in your home.

How does the LCA program work?

Contact the lead testing program administrator by using our online form at lehighcountyauthority.org or by phone at **610-398-2503, ext. 167**. Ask about lead testing and you will be directed to the right person.

Be prepared to share some basic contact information and property information. We will also ask you to tell us more about your interior plumbing such as your incoming water pipe material, any water softener or other treatment system you may have in place, whether you have copper plumbing with lead solder, and the year your home was built. This information will help us to interpret the test results we get from the lab. Fact sheets available at lehighcountyauthority.org can help you determine some of the information above.

After we gather this basic information, we will schedule a time for you to pick up a sample container and instructions. It is important that you follow the instructions carefully to ensure a "first draw" sample is obtained. A "first draw" sample is a 1 liter sample of water (a little more than a quart) that has been sitting in your pipes for at least 6 hours. (The longer water sits in your pipes, the more it increases the possibility of exposure to lead in your plumbing.)

You will drop off your water sample according to the instructions we provide to you, and we'll take care of the rest. The cost will be \$30, which includes a small fee for LCA to administer the program.

Pick-up / Drop-off locations

Customers can visit us at whichever location is most convenient:

LCA Main Office: 1053 Spruce Road, Wescosville

LCA Water Plant: 1300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Allentown

Getting your results

The lab will conduct the test and report back to LCA, and then we will send you the results and share some additional information about the safety of your water.

You should receive your results within 30 days of dropping off your sample to us.

If your water test results show elevated lead levels, we will share some additional information with you about what you can do to further investigate the issue, or

options to reduce the risk of lead exposure. Remember that each home is different. While some people would point to lead service lines between our mains and your plumbing as a problem, the source of lead could be elsewhere in your home. We can help direct you to resources to determine how to make your home safer.

