

COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES LICENSING PROGRAM

Sampling Child Care Facility’s Drinking Water

Test Your Taps



- Thank you for testing your facility drinking water for lead. Water testing kits can be purchased from BV Labs on Vancouver Island. For information, please contact customersolutionswest@bvlabs.com.
- You will collect two samples from at least one tap: a stagnant sample and a flush sample. A **stagnant** sample tests the first water that comes out of the tap after a period of inactivity (minimum 8 hours). A **flush sample** collects water after the tap has been running for **two minutes**.
- It is important that you **do not use any water in the facility for at least 8 hours before you collect the samples**.
- Do not run any water from sinks, taps, toilets, showers, outside faucets, etc. for at least 8 hours before you collect the samples. This will test the water left sitting in the pipes leading to the faucet over an 8-hour period.

Prepare and Collect Stagnant Sample



- Test any taps used for drinking and food preparation (i.e. kitchen sink). If a tap has a filter attached to it, leave the filter in place to take both the stagnant and flush samples.
- **Do not use any water for at least 8 hours before collecting the water sample.** The water has to sit in the pipes **for 8-12 hours** to get a stagnant water sample.
 - **Tip:** Collect water first thing in the morning
- Fill-in the information on the sample bottle (Faucet A, Location, Stagnant, Facility Name & Date).
- Remove the sample bottle cap making sure you do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the water sample bottle.
- Before turning on the water, place the opened sample bottle below the tap.
- Slowly turn on cold water and bring it to a normal flow rate, like how you would fill a glass of water. **Catch all the water in the sample bottle** – do not let any water go down the drain.
- Fill the sample bottle to the line and screw the cap on tightly.

Prepare and Collect Flush Sample



- After you have completed the stagnant sample, you are ready to take the **flush sample**.
- Run cold water **flow for two minutes**. Turn up to a normal flow rate to take the sample, similar to how you would fill a glass of water.
- Fill-in the information on the sample bottle (Faucet A, Location, Flush, Facility Name and Date).
- Remove the cap making sure you do not touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the water sample bottle.

201 – 771 Vernon Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 5A7
Ph: 250.519.3401
Fax: 250.519.3402
Website: [Community Care Facilities Licensing](http://www.islandhealth.ca/Community-Care-Facilities-Licensing)

Nanaimo
29 – 1925 Bowen Road
Nanaimo, BC V9S 1H1
Ph: 250.739.5800
Fax: 250.740.2675

Courtenay
355 – 11th Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4
Ph: 250.331.8620
Fax: 250.331.8596

Campbell River
200 – 1100 Island Highway
Campbell River, BC V9W 8C6
Ph: 250.850.2110
Fax: 250.850.2455

- Fill the sample bottle to the line and screw the cap on tightly.

Return Stagnant and Flush Sample Bottles

Complete the enclosed form and **complete the highlighted sections**.

- Site Location: Name of child care facility
- Site Address:
- Sampled by: Name of person who took the sample
- Date and time when the samples were collected
- Sample Identification: Faucet A and Location and Stagnant or 2 Minute Flush (This section should be filled out for all samples in Rows 1, 2, 3, 4)

Example:

- Faucet A, Kitchen, Stagnant
- Faucet A, Kitchen, 2 Minute Flush
- Faucet B, Suite kitchen, Stagnant
- Faucet B, Suite kitchen, 2 Minute Flush

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I make sure I submit a sample that is acceptable for testing?

- Submit your samples in the water sample bottles supplied to you.
- Fill out the enclosed form.
- Be sure the sample gets to the laboratory within seven days from the time you filled the water sample bottles.

In which order should we take our samples?

- To get accurate results, take **stagnant** samples on the tap(s) first, and then go back around and take **flush** samples. Start with taps that are closest to where the water comes into the building. If you have taps on multiple floors, start with the taps on the lower floors before moving up.

How many taps do I need to test?

- You will need to test any taps which you are using or proposing to use as potable water (for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, etc.). Your facility policies/planning should include which taps are potable water sources.

More Information

- If you have any questions or for more information, **please contact your Licensing Officer.**

