

Lead in Drinking Water Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the source of lead in drinking water samples collected at NJIT?

A: We are confident that our source water is not contaminated. This is evidenced by the numerous samples that have returned results that are below the limit of detection. Rather, we believe the source of the lead is older plumbing fixtures that were installed when government standards allowed a higher percent lead in copper and brass fixtures.

Q: If I do not see results for my building posted on the website, does that mean my building was not tested?

A: No, drinking water samples are being collected from all occupied NJIT buildings. Results for particular buildings are only posted when samples collected there return results higher than the NJ DEP/US EPA Action Level.

Q: Why is my building not being provided with bottled water?

A: Currently, NJIT is providing an alternate source of drinking water, in the form of bottled water, for those buildings where drinking fountains and kitchen plumbing fixtures have returned results higher than the NJ DEP/US EPA Action Level and have subsequently been removed from service.

Q: How long will bottled water be provided?

A: Bottled water will be provided as an alternate source of drinking water while the entire NJIT drinking water system is being assessed and upgraded. Currently, additional samples are being collected each week and water filtration systems, certified for the removal of lead, are being installed throughout the university community. Additionally, problematic plumbing fixtures are being identified and replaced with new lead-free fixtures. Further samples will be collected to assess the effectiveness of the filtration systems and new fixture installation. Bottled water will be provided until we are sure that the permanent upgrades to the drinking water system are effective.

Q: Who will maintain the water filters and replace the bottled water?

A: NJIT Facilities will regularly replace the water filters depending on frequency of use. NJIT Facilities will also replace bottled water when necessary.

Q: Will every fountain, sink and faucet at NJIT be tested?

A: No, each type of plumbing fixture will be tested. When we identify a type of plumbing fixture that is problematic, all fixtures of that type will be scheduled for filter installation or fixture replacement.

Q: Does running the cold water help reduce the potential amount of lead in the drinking water?

A: Yes, all US EPA, NJ DEP, and Health Department publications stress the importance of only using cold water for drinking and cooking and include instructions to allow the water to run until you feel the water change temperatures (meaning get colder) before using for drinking or cooking.