



Environmental Health & Safety

Drinking Water Program

Introduction

Oregon State University's Environmental Health and Safety department conducts voluntary water sampling to ensure that potable water sources meet EPA recommended best practices. EPA regulations were set in place to be enforced at K–12 school systems, which OSU does not fall under. The scope of the Drinking Water Program is to sample all potable water sources on campus for lead concentration. Lead in drinking water may be a concern at high levels due to negative health effects, especially for children or if pregnant.

Sampling Plan

Oregon State University's Corvallis campus is divided into five sections and one section will be reviewed with selective sampling per year. 250mL water samples are taken from potable fixtures and analyzed by an independent, third party lab for lead concentration. Fixtures that are being monitored will be resampled immediately, regardless of sampling section.

Interpreting Results

The EPA action level for lead is 0.015 mg/L or 15 ppb. Drinking water samples that meet or exceed the action level will be resampled. If they remain at or above the action level, the fixture will be repaired by Facilities Services or another department responsible for fixture maintenance. If water samples from the fixtures are below 0.015 mg/L, they will be considered in compliance and no further action will be taken.

Communicating Results

Results are published annually and maintained on the Environmental Health and Safety website. Historic and current data is available at: <https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/public-health>.

Childcare Facilities

Official childcare facilities will take priority in sampling and are required to meet EPA regulations. All childcare facilities will be sampled every 6 years at minimum. Results are sent to the state of Oregon and are maintained by each facility. Results are available upon request by contacting the childcare facility. Childcare Facility managers are encouraged to submit their results to EH&S so they can be included within the data tables.

Potable Water

Fixtures that are served by a potable source and a designated potable distribution system, are considered potable. Fixtures served by any other source or nonpotable distribution system are not considered potable. Laboratory-type fixtures are typically not sampled as they do not meet the potable definition as they are typically connected to a nonpotable distribution system. If a water system is sourced from a well or other nonpublic source, additional testing can be requested in order to ensure safe consumption. Please contact stewart.simmons@oregonstate.edu or dan.kermoyan@oregonstate.edu if you believe your facility fits this definition.

Industrial Water

Industrial water is any water sources that has been separated from the potable distribution system via an approved backflow prevention device. When a nonpotable fixture allows backflow, hazardous chemicals or sediment can be introduced within the distribution. Industrial water is most commonly found in laboratories, but in some cases there are offices and break rooms that have been converted from old lab spaces. These converted spaces may still be on industrial water and should not be consumed or used for food preparation until contacting EH&S. In an effort to better educate the public, OSU EH&S has been placing stickers on industrial water sources. These stickers are available upon request by emailing: stewart.simmons@oregonstate.edu

**Regulations and Resources**

- [Results to Oregon State University Drinking Water Results](#)
- [Title 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I – Lead and Copper Rule](#)
- [Safe Drinking Water Act](#)
- [EPA 3Ts for reducing lead in drinking water](#)