



# *Solutions for Elevated Lead Levels in School Drinking Water*

## EPA-Recommended Control Measures

### ***ROUTINE CONTROL MEASURES***

Routine measures can prevent exposure to elevated levels of lead.

- Create an aerator (screen) cleaning maintenance schedule and clean debris from all accessible aerators frequently.
- Use only cold water for food and beverage preparation. If hot water is needed, it should be taken from the cold water tap and heated on a stove or in a microwave oven.
- Instruct drinking-water users (students and staff) to run the water before drinking. Staff can run the water before students arrive so they are drinking water that has not been in contact with the faucet interior, since faucets are often a major source of lead in drinking water.

### ***SHORT-TERM CONTROL MEASURES***

Interim control measures can be used until test results come in or a permanent remedy is put into place.

- Flush the piping system in the building.
- Shut off problem faucets or outlets.

### ***PERMANENT CONTROL MEASURES***

Permanent control measures can reduce or eliminate sources of lead originating in a building's plumbing.

- Replace faucets or outlets.
- Install point-of-use devices to treat faucets or taps.
- Check grounding wires since electrical current may accelerate the corrosion of lead in piping materials.
- Replace lead pipes.
- Reconfigure plumbing to bypass sources of lead contamination.
- Flush individual problem outlets either manually or using automatic, time-operated valves.
- Shut off problem faucets or outlets.
- Install a water-treatment system.
- Use lead-free materials for repair or replacement work.