

# Lead (Pb) Reduction:

## Reducing Lead Exposure in Child Care Center Drinking Water by Replacing Fixtures and Fittings

### *The problem:*

Lead is a neurotoxin that can leach into drinking water and negatively impact children's health. Prior to 1986, lead was common in plumbing solder. Plumbing fixtures, also referred to as outlets, and fittings installed before 2010 in California were also permitted to contain up to 8% lead. Additional sources of lead may include private lead service lines and leaded gooseneck connections. Remediation can be accomplished by first replacing lead service lines and gooseneck connections, if present, and then replacing old fixtures, brass fittings, valves, and angle stops.

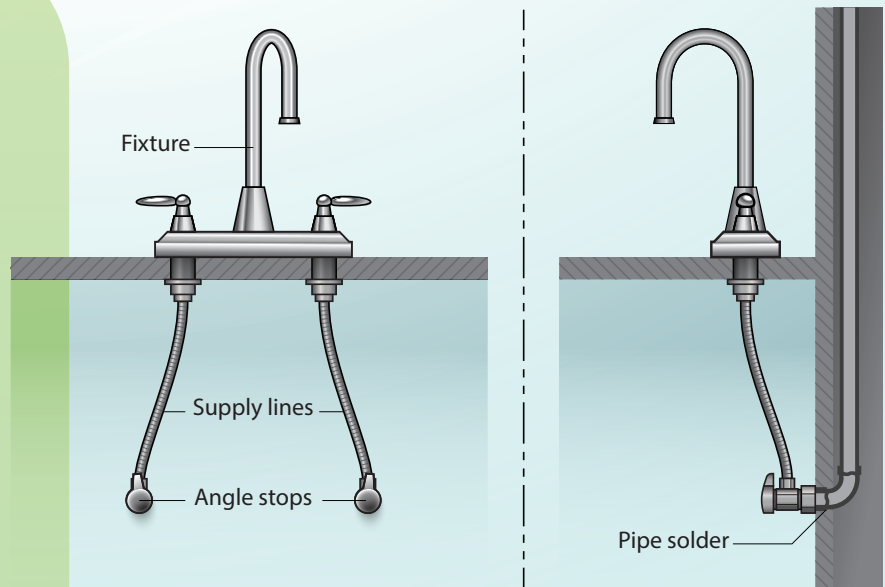
Not every fixture may be leaching lead, so testing prior to remediation can reduce costs by ensuring that only fixtures that are contributing to lead exceedances are replaced. Based on an analysis of drinking water samples at California licensed Child Care Centers, only 1 in 12 fixtures exceed the CA Action Level of 5.5 ppb. If a fixture tests above the action level, the remediation steps listed below can help reduce lead concentrations.

### *The solution:*

When a fixture (bubbler, faucet, bottle filling station) exceeds the Action Level, replacing it and the associated angle stops and supply lines solved more than 70% of exceedance cases. To improve success, the following steps are recommended:

- Replace with a fixture that meets lead content and leaching requirements
- Replace accessible water supply lines
- Replace angle stops and remove any old pipe solder if possible.
- Replace any other plumbing fixtures/fittings on the cold water side
- Flush 4 times per day for 3 weeks prior to retesting
- Retest to confirm results

***"If you can see it,  
replace it"***



### *What if the problem persists?*

When locating and removing sources of lead is prohibitively expensive, such as lead solder within the building plumbing, end-of-tap filters may be the best solution.

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through agreements with the EPA, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Social Services. For more information on California lead testing requirements for child care centers, see PIN-21-21.1-CCP.