

# DRINKING WATER QUALITY

## CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?

### EFFORTS ARE MADE TO ENSURE SAFE DRINKING WATER AT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Generally, lead may be found in drinking water due to the use of lead containing pipes, fixtures and solder. Lead leaches into the water when these systems corrode. The concern with lead in drinking water is that ingestion of it may cause it to accumulate in the brain, liver, kidney and bones leading to negative health effects. Children and infants are the most susceptible to the effects of lead since they absorb it more easily. Children may experience delays in physical and mental development when exposed to lead.

Memorial is committed to providing safe drinking water. On campus, many buildings have filtered and chilled drinking stations and filtered taps. For instance, in the Memorial University Childcare Centre all drinking taps are filtered for lead.

To ensure quality, drinking water is tested for lead on campus annually and the results are posted on the Environmental Health and Safety website. Some daily tips to reduce your exposure to lead include:

- Make it a practice to run the water at any tap before consuming especially after water has sat in the plumbing for more than six hours. As recommended by Health Canada, let the water run until cold.
- Always use the cold water tap for drinking or cooking.
- Never use hot water from the tap for cooking or mixing infant formula.
- On campus, drink water from stations with signage, which are equipped with filters to remove lead.

For information on drinking water quality on campus, visit [www.mun.ca/health\\_safety](http://www.mun.ca/health_safety).



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