

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

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October 4, 2005

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Charles Lehmann, RS, Environmental Health Director  
Pitt County Health Department

**FROM:** Harry Whitley, RS, MPH, CIHT, Regional Environmental Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**THROUGH:** Ed Norman, MPH, Program Supervisor  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**SUBJECT:** Remediation of lead in drinking water

The purpose of this memo is to set forth a policy for remediation of lead hazards in water at the homes and supplemental addresses of lead-poisoned children and at licensed child care centers. This policy covers interim controls or Maintenance Standard applications as well as permanent remediation of lead hazards in water.

When drinking or cooking water or water that is used for oral hygiene purposes is determined to be a lead hazard at the home or supplemental address of a lead-poisoned child or at a licensed child care center attended by a child less than six-years-old, the lead hazard must be remediated by changing the source of water, replacing the compromised plumbing, or by installing and maintaining approved filtration devices.

When filtration is used, such devices must be properly installed at each spigot, tap, fountain or faucet that supplies water ingested by children less than six-years-old. Only filters of proper design that meet ANSI/NSF Standard #53 shall be used and must be approved by the local health department for their intended use. Filters must be maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications and a schedule of filter element replacement must be posted above each tap, spigot, fountain, or faucet where a filtration device is installed. The health department may inspect the premises as often as deemed necessary and shall inspect at least annually as required under the Maintenance Standard to assure that filters are properly maintained, filter elements are replaced according to manufacturer's specifications and schedules of filter element replacement are posted as required.

Filtered and unfiltered water samples from each affected spigot, tap, fountain or faucet shall be collected at least annually and during all other inspections. Clearance inspections must include a sample of filtered water from each location where filters have been installed. In order to pass clearance, all samples must contain less than 15 parts per billion (ppb) lead. If during an annual monitoring visit or another inspection it is discovered that filters are not being maintained as required or that filter element replacement schedules are not posted, then the owner shall be required to have indoor potable water supply lines replaced by a licensed plumber.

The use of bottled water for drinking, cooking and oral hygiene purposes is encouraged regardless of filtration status until such time as lead hazards in water are remediated. If you need additional information or if you have any questions about this memo, please contact me at (252) 493-7145 or by email at [harry.whitley@ncmail.net](mailto:harry.whitley@ncmail.net).