

**Ministry of
the Environment**

Drinking Water Management
Division

14th floor
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

**Ministère de
l'Environnement**

Division de la gestion de la qualité de
l'eau potable

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135, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1P5



Ontario

August 30, 2007

Attention Operators of Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries:

As you know, in June of 2007, the Government passed a regulation under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* (Ontario Regulation 243/07) governing flushing and lead testing requirements for schools, private schools and day nurseries. Amendments of a technical nature were made to the regulation in late July. Ontario Regulation 243/07 requires weekly flushing for schools, private schools and day nurseries that are housed in a building where no part of the plumbing that serves the building was installed before January 1st, 1990. If, however, all or part of the plumbing in the building that houses the school, private school or day nursery was installed before January 1st, 1990, the regulation requires daily flushing.

The regulation also imposes requirements for annual lead sampling and testing on all schools and private schools, as well as on day nurseries that are served by plumbing installed before January 1st, 1990. Schools and private schools are required to take two samples of water and test them for lead between the period of June 15th and August 15th. Day nurseries are required to take two samples of water and test them for lead between the period of May 1 and October 31st. The Ministry is now receiving the results of the testing from schools and private schools.

The Ministry is recommending that daily flushing commence at all schools and private schools and day nurseries that are housed in buildings where no part of the plumbing was installed before January 1, 1990. In response to a few test results showing exceedences in schools with plumbing installed post-1990, the Ministry is recommending this practice as a precautionary measure for the start of the school year. Over the next few months, the Ministry will analyze all the lead testing results it receives from schools, private schools and day nurseries more closely, to determine the number of lead exceedences that are being found in schools, private schools and day nurseries that are served by newer plumbing. A subsequent letter will be issued to schools, private schools and day nurseries to determine whether it is necessary to continue with this recommended practice of daily flushing for schools, private schools and day nurseries that are served by newer plumbing.

If you have any questions about the steps to flush plumbing outlined in Ontario Regulation 243/07 and the circumstances when you should consider taking additional measures to flush the plumbing in a building beyond those specified in the regulation, please contact your local Ministry of Environment Office. A list of those offices is attached for your convenience.

Yours truly,

Paul Nieweglowski
Chief Drinking Water Inspector (Acting)



Ministry of the Environment Local Offices – Drinking Water

Central Region – (Halton-Peel)

4145 North Service Road, Suite 300, Burlington, ON L7L 6A3
905-319-3847

Central Region – (York Durham District)

230 Westney Road S., 5th Fl., Ajax, ON L1S 7J5
905-427-5600

South West Region – (London)

3232 White Oak Rd, London, ON N6E 1L8
519-873-5094

South West Region – (Barrie)

54 Cedar Pointe Dr., Unit 1201, Barrie, ON L4N 5R7
705-739-6441

South West Region – (Sarnia)

1094 London Rd., Sarnia, ON N7S 1P1
519-336-4030

South West Region – (Windsor)

4510 Rhodes Dr., Unit 620, Windsor, ON N8W 5K5
519-948-1464

South West Region – (Owen Sound)

1580 20th St. E., Owen sound, ON N4K 6H6
519-371-2901

West Central Region – (Niagara)

301 St. Paul St., 9th Fl Suite 15, St. Catharines, ON L2R 3M8
905-704-3900

West Central Region – (Hamilton)

119 King St. W., 12th Fl., Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y7
905-521-7650

West Central Region – (Guelph)

1 Stone Rd. W., Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2
519-826-4255

Eastern Region – (Kingston)

1259 Gardiners Rd., Unit 3, Kingston, ON K7M 8S5
613-549-4000

Eastern Region – (Ottawa)
2430 Don Reid Dr., Ottawa, ON K1H 1E1
613-521-3450

Eastern Region – (Cornwall)
113 Amelia St., 1st Fl., Cornwall ON K6H 3P1
613-933-7402

Eastern Region – (Peterborough)
300 Water St., 2nd Fl., Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5
705-755-4300

Eastern Region – (Belleville)
345 College St. E., Belleville, ON K8N 5S7
613-962-9208

Northern Region – (Kenora)
808 Robertson St., 2nd Fl., Kenora, ON P9N 3X9
807-468-2718

Northern Region – (Thunder Bay)
436 James St. S., 3rd Fl Suite 331, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7
807-475-1205

Northern Region – (Timmins)
Hwy 101 E., South Porcupine, ON P0N 1H0
705-235-1500

Northern Region – (North Bay)
191 Booth Rd., Unit 16 & 17, North Bay, ON P1A 4K3
705-497-6865

Northern Region – (Sudbury)
199 Larch St., Suite 1201, Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9
705-564-3237

Northern Region – (Sault Ste. Marie)
289 Bay St., 3rd Fl., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1W7
705-942-6354