

Water Testing Policy

Effective Date: 1 November, 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Sikh Academy complies with the revised guidelines from Health Canada and the Ministry of Education regarding testing and reducing lead content in drinking water. The policy ensures the safety and health of students, staff, and visitors by implementing regular water testing, mitigation procedures, and compliance reporting.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all water sources used for drinking and food preparation at Sikh Academy. It includes:

- Drinking fountains
- Faucets in classrooms and staff areas
- Food preparation areas

3. Regulatory Compliance

This policy complies with:

- **Health Canada Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality** (Updated Lead Limit: 5 parts per billion or 0.005 mg/L)
- **BC Ministry of Education Requirements for Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water**

For more information, refer to the [BC Government Guidelines](#).

4. Testing Protocols

4.1 Frequency of Testing

- Water testing must be conducted at least once every three years.

4.2 Sampling Locations

- All drinking water fountains and faucets used for food preparation must be tested.
- Additional sampling points may be tested based on results and potential risks.

4.3 Testing Methods

- Water samples must be collected and analyzed by an accredited laboratory in accordance with Health Canada and provincial guidelines.
- A "first draw" sample (after a period of no water use for at least 6 hours) and a "flushed" sample (after running water for 2 minutes) will be collected for each source.

5. Mitigation and Communication Strategies

If sample results reveal lead levels above the maximum allowable concentration as stated from the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality by Health Canada, the School in consultation with the Fraser Health Authority will commence daily flushing immediately, or deactivate and place a "Not in Use" sign on the Water Source.

Mitigation solutions may include;

1. Flushing regimes
2. Deactivation of water sources and supplemental signage
3. Installation of filtration systems
4. Plumbing upgrades
5. Or other steps that result in reducing the exposure to lead acceptable levels.

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"Should testing result in elevated levels of lead , the School will immediately inform the Ministry of Education - Independent Schools Branch of the issue. The School will then collaboratively work with the Fraser Health Authority to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water with parents, students, and staff by describing the following;

- Rationale for testing lead in drinking water
- Identify partnership with the Fraser Health Authority in developing a solution
- State results of sampling
- Identify mitigation strategies implemented or being consider by the Board
- Provide contact information for the School and the Fraser Health Authority for the parents , students and staff to request further information.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Administration

- Ensure testing once every three years and compliance with regulations.
- Oversee mitigation measures and communicate results to stakeholders.

6.2 Staff

- Report any concerns regarding water quality or infrastructure to administration.

6.3 Facilities Manager

- Coordinate with accredited laboratories for water testing.
- Implement and maintain flushing schedules or other mitigation measures.

7. Record Keeping

Sikh Academy will maintain records of:

- Annual water testing schedules and laboratory results.

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- Documentation of corrective actions and retesting.
- Communications with stakeholders regarding water safety. Records will be kept for a minimum of **five years** and made available for regulatory review as needed.