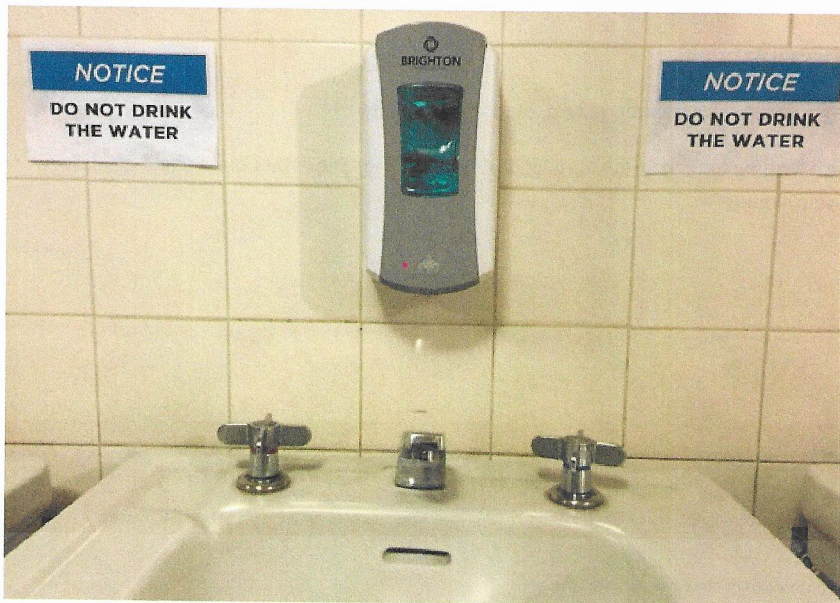


## Lead in Capitol water prompts shut off of historic drinking fountains



Signs posted in a downstairs bathroom at the Capitol building in Salem not to drink the water. Elevated levels of lead, discovered in preliminary testing, have prompted legislative administrators to retest all drinking-water facilities. (Dana Tims/Staff)



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Preliminary tests show that drinking water in the state Capitol, just like water in scores of schools and other public facilities around the state, contains potentially unsafe levels of lead.

The findings have prompted building administrators to shut off several drinking fountains, post signs warning against drinking from bathroom sinks and order up more tests to see how widespread the problem might be.

Based on early testing, the problem appears concentrated in sinks and fixtures in the oldest parts of the Capitol, which date to 1938.

"At this point, it's a little premature to know what the cause of the lead is," Daron Hill, the Legislature's administrator, told members of the [Legislative Administration Committee](#) on Friday. "We're now going to go back and retest everything."

Hall said results have come back for 63 out of 113 locations tested around the building. Of those 63, eight showed elevated levels of lead. Those spots included a break-room sink, two historic drinking fountains and five sinks in the Capitol's original bathrooms.

Hall said most were "fairly high above" the federal safety threshold of 15 parts per billion.

No lead has been detected in the offices and hearing rooms of the Capitol's east and west wings, which were added to the structure in 1977, Hall said.

Legislators decided to test various Capitol water facilities this summer, after high lead levels showed up in schools and public buildings around the state, said [House Speaker Tina Kotek](#), D-Portland.

"We could have a can of worms here," said Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner.

Kotek added that some of the highest lead levels, according to preliminary tests, are in fountains and sinks in and around her office. The speaker's office resides in the older part of the building, behind the House chambers.

"We've shut them all off," she said of fountains across the Capitol, "and we're now stocking plenty of bottled water."

Two types of tests will now be conducted to pinpoint the cause of the problem, Hall said.

The first will involve testing water that's allowed to sit overnight. The second will allow water to run from a fixture before testing it. The first test is intended to see if the fixture itself is contaminating the water, while the second will let technicians determine if the pipes beyond the fixture are the source of the problem.

Kotek's office said costs associated with testing are below \$10,000.

Others wondered whether more testing could lead to further positive findings and, thus, higher costs.

"Is it concerning to anyone else that we're focusing on leading testing in the Capitol, but none of the other state buildings?" said Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner. "We could have a can of worms here."

-- Dana Tims

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### Oregon State Capitol Lead Water Testing Locations and Results

|    | Sample Location                                       | Fixture Type           | First Draw Sample Number | First Draw Result (ppb) | Flush Sample Number | Flush Result (ppb) |
|----|---|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Café sink next to coffee makers                       | Sink                   | S-001-FD                 | ND                      | S-002-FL            | N/A                |
| 2  | Soda machine in café                                  | Soda machine           | DD-003-FD                | 1.86                    | DD-04-FL            | N/A                |
| 3  | Chinook room meeting area                             | Sink                   | S-005-FD                 | 8.10                    | S-06-FL             | N/A                |
| 4  | Ground floor break room                               | Sink                   | S-009-FD                 | 2.70                    | S-010-FL            | N/A                |
| 5  | Secretary of State break area                         | Sink                   | S-019-FD                 | 7.01                    | S-020-FL            | N/A                |
| 6  | <b>Employee Services break area next to LA</b>        | <b>Sink</b>            | <b>S-017-FD</b>          | <b>16.9</b>             | S-018-FL            | 6.66               |
| 7  | Women's restroom first floor east rotunda             | Sink (center)          | S-015-FD                 | 12.5                    | S-016-FL            | N/A                |
| 8  | Men's basement restroom west                          | Sink (center)          | S-007-FD                 | 2.53                    | S-008-FL            | N/A                |
| 9  | Office area 160                                       | Sink                   | S-013-FD                 | 4.04                    | S-014-FL            | N/A                |
| 10 | Visitors Services men's public restroom               | Sink (third from left) | S-021-FD                 | 7.96                    | S-022-FL            | N/A                |
| 11 | Visitors Services drinking fountain west              | Drinking fountain      | DF-023-FD                | 2.03                    | DF-024-FL           | N/A                |
| 12 | Visitors Services drinking fountain east              | Drinking fountain      | DF-025-FD                | 4.07                    | DF-026-FL           | N/A                |
| 13 | Treasurer's office break area                         | Sink                   | S-011-FD                 | 4.33                    | S-012-FL            | N/A                |
| 14 | <b>Second floor restroom east women's next to 243</b> | <b>Sink (on right)</b> | <b>S-087-FD</b>          | <b>27.9</b>             | S-088-FL            | 3.60               |
| 15 | <b>Second floor restroom west men's next to 257</b>   | <b>Sink (center)</b>   | <b>S-089-FD</b>          | <b>24.1</b>             | <b>S-090-FL</b>     | <b>18.7</b>        |
| 16 | <b>Speaker of the House restroom</b>                  | <b>Sink (center)</b>   | <b>S-093-FD</b>          | <b>106</b>              | <b>S-094-FL</b>     | <b>27</b>          |
| 17 | Speaker of the House break area                       | Sink                   | S-091-FD                 | ND                      | S-092-FL            | N/A                |
| 18 | <b>360 area 3rd floor women's restroom</b>            | <b>Sink</b>            | <b>S-111-FD</b>          | <b>35.1</b>             | S-112-FL            | 13.3               |
| 19 | House lounge  | Sink                   | S-113-FD                 | 12.4                    | S-114-FL            | N/A                |
| 20 | <b>Third floor west men's restroom</b>                | <b>Sink (on right)</b> | <b>S-117-FD</b>          | <b>22.1</b>             | <b>S-118-FL</b>     | <b>17.8</b>        |
| 21 | Governor's break room sink #254                       | Sink                   | S-083-FD                 | 2.97                    | S-084-FL            | N/A                |
| 22 | Secretary of Senate break area                        | Sink                   | S-085-FD                 | 2.93                    | S-086-FL            | N/A                |
| 23 | Senate lounge   | Sink                   | S-119-FD                 | 5.13                    | S-112-FL            | N/A                |
| 24 | Fourth floor Committee Services women's restroom      | Sink                   | S-115-FD                 | 14.1                    | S-116-FL            | N/A                |
| 25 | Third floor Senate Republican office break area       | Sink                   | S-047-FD                 | ND                      | S-048-FL            | N/A                |
| 26 | Third floor Senate                                    | Drinking fountain      | DF-051-FD                | ND                      | DF-052-FL           | N/A                |
| 27 | Third floor Senate staff break area                   | Sink                   | S-053-FD                 | ND                      | S-054-FL            | N/A                |
| 28 | Fourth floor Senate                                   | Drinking fountain      | DF-057-FD                | ND                      | DF-058-FL           | N/A                |
| 29 | Fourth floor Senate staff break area                  | Sink                   | S-059-FD                 | ND                      | S-060-FL            | N/A                |
| 30 | Third floor Senate Republican break area              | Refrigerator           | WD-049-FD                | ND                      | WD-050-FL           | N/A                |
| 31 | Third floor Senate break area                         | Refrigerator           | WD-055-FD                | ND                      | WD-056-FL           | N/A                |

|    | Sample Location                           | Fixture Type                          | First Draw Sample Number | First Draw Result (ppb) | Flush Sample Number | Flush Result (ppb) |
|----|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 32 | Fourth floor Senate staff break area      | Refrigerator (left)                   | WD-061-FD                | ND                      | WD-062-FL           | N/A                |
| 33 | Second floor Senate Democratic break area | Sink                                  | S-043-FD                 | ND                      | S-044-FL            | N/A                |
| 34 | Second floor Senate Democratic break area | Refrigerator                          | WD-045-FD                | ND                      | WD-046-FL           | N/A                |
| 35 | Second floor Senate                       | Drinking fountain                     | DF-037-FD                | ND                      | DF-038-FL           | N/A                |
| 36 | Second floor Senate staff break room      | Sink                                  | S-039-FD                 | 1.05                    | S-040-FL            | N/A                |
| 37 | Second floor Senate staff break room      | Refrigerator                          | WD-041-FD                | ND                      | WD-042-FL           | N/A                |
| 38 | First floor LC staff break area           | Sink                                  | S-029-FD                 | ND                      | S-030-FL            | N/A                |
| 39 | First floor LC staff break area           | Refrigerator                          | WD-027-FD                | ND                      | WD-028-FL           | N/A                |
| 40 | First floor LC                            | Drinking fountain                     | DF-031-FD                | ND                      | DF-032-FL           | N/A                |
| 41 | First floor LFO staff break area          | Sink                                  | S-067-FD                 | ND                      | S-068-FL            | N/A                |
| 42 | First floor LFO                           | Drinking fountain                     | DF-069-FD                | ND                      | DF-70-FL            | N/A                |
| 43 | First floor LFO staff break area          | Refrigerator (Whirlpool)              | WD-063-FD                | ND                      | WD-064-FL           | N/A                |
| 44 | First floor LFO staff break area          | Refrigerator (GE)                     | WD-065-FD                | ND                      | WD-066-FL           | N/A                |
| 45 | Fourth floor House                        | Drinking fountain                     | DF-103-FD                | ND                      | DF-104-FL           | N/A                |
| 46 | Fourth floor House staff break area       | Refrigerator (left)                   | WD-105-FD                | ND                      | WD-106-FL           | N/A                |
| 47 | Fourth floor House staff break area       | Refrigerator (right)                  | WD-107-FD                | ND                      | WD-108-FL           | N/A                |
| 48 | Fourth floor House staff break area       | Sink                                  | S-109-FD                 | ND                      | S110-FL             | N/A                |
| 49 | Third floor House staff break area        | Refrigerator (left)                   | WD-097-FD                | ND                      | WD-98-FL            | N/A                |
| 50 | Third floor House staff break area        | Refrigerator (right)                  | WD-099-FD                | ND                      | WD-100-FL           | N/A                |
| 51 | Third floor House staff break area        | Sink                                  | S-101-FD                 | ND                      | S-102-FL            | N/A                |
| 52 | Third floor House                         | Drinking fountain                     | DF-095-FD                | ND                      | DF-096-FL           | N/A                |
| 53 | Chief Clerk's break area                  | Sink                                  | S-073-FD                 | ND                      | S-074-FL            | N/A                |
| 54 | Chief Clerk's break area                  | Refrigerator                          | WD-071-FD                | ND                      | WD-072-FL           | N/A                |
| 55 | Second floor House staff break area       | Refrigerator (left)                   | WD-079-FD                | ND                      | WD-080-FL           | N/A                |
| 56 | Second floor House staff break area       | Refrigerator (right)                  | WD-077-FD                | ND                      | WD-078-FL           | N/A                |
| 57 | Second floor House staff break area       | Sink                                  | S-081-FD                 | ND                      | S-082-FL            | N/A                |
| 58 | Second floor House                        | Drinking fountain                     | DF-075-FD                | ND                      | DF-076-FL           | N/A                |
| 59 | Senate President's office                 | Refrigerator (water dispenser on COC) | WD-033-FD                | ND                      | WD-034-FL           | N/A                |
| 60 | Senate President's office                 | Sink                                  | S-035-FD                 | ND                      | S-036-FL            | N/A                |
| 61 | Men's basement restroom west              | Sink (Left)                           | S009 FD #1               | 6.8                     | S010 FL #1          | N/A                |
| 62 | Men's basement restroom west              | Sink (Right)                          | S011 FD #2               | 5.1                     | S012 FL #2          | N/A                |
| 63 | <b>Women's basement restroom east</b>     | <b>Sink (Left)</b>                    | <b>S013 FD #3</b>        | <b>23</b>               | S014 FL #3          | 6.7                |

|    | Sample Location                              | Fixture Type             | First Draw Sample Number | First Draw Result (ppb) | Flush Sample Number | Flush Result (ppb) |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 64 | Women's basement restroom east               | Sink (second from left)  | S015 FD #4               | 20                      | S016 FL #4          | 3.3                |
| 65 | Women's basement restroom east               | Sink (Second from right) | S017 FD #5               | 15                      | S018 FL #5          | 3.85               |
| 66 | Women's basement restroom east               | Sink (right)             | S019 FD #6               | 45                      | S020 FL #6          | 4.1                |
| 67 | IS training room restroom                    | Sink (Left)              | S001 FD #7 Left          | 3.8                     | S002 FL #7 Left     | N/A                |
| 68 | IS training room restroom                    | Sink (Right)             | S003 FD #8 Right         | 1.6                     | S004 FL #8 Right    | N/A                |
| 69 | Woman's basement restroom west               | Sink                     | S005 FD #9               | 5.0                     | S006 FL #9          | N/A                |
| 70 | Café restroom                                | Sink                     | S007 FD #10              | ND                      | S008 FL #10         | N/A                |
| 71 | Basement old Senate wing men's restroom      | Sink (Left)              | S029 FD #11              | 6.9                     | S030 FL #11         | N/A                |
| 72 | Basement old Senate wing men's restroom      | Sink (Right)             | S031 FD #12              | 12                      | S032 FL #12         | N/A                |
| 73 | Basement old Senate wing men's shower room   | Sink (Left)              | S025 FD #13              | 1.6                     | S026 FL #13         | N/A                |
| 74 | Basement old Senate wing men's shower room   | Sink (Right)             | S027 FD #14              | 2.1                     | S028 FL #14         | N/A                |
| 75 | Basement old Senate wing women's shower room | Sink (Left)              | S021 FD #15              | 1.3                     | S022 FL #15         | N/A                |
| 76 | Basement old Senate wing women's shower room | Sink (Right)             | S023 FD #16              | 2.0                     | S024 FL #16         | N/A                |
| 77 | Men's restroom first floor east rotunda      | Sink (Left)              | S051 FD #17              | 13                      | S052 FL #17         | N/A                |
| 78 | Men's restroom first floor east rotunda      | Sink (Right)             | S053 FD #18              | 5.4                     | S054 FL #18         | N/A                |
| 79 | Men's restroom first floor west rotunda      | Sink (Left)              | S045 FD #19              | 29                      | S046 FL #19         | 6.4                |
| 80 | Men's restroom first floor west rotunda      | Sink (Right)             | S047 FD #20              | 9.4                     | S048 FL #20         | N/A                |
| 81 | Woman's restroom first floor west rotunda    | Sink (Left)              | S033 FD #21              | 18                      | S034 FL #21         | 4.2                |
| 82 | Woman's restroom first floor west rotunda    | Sink (center)            | S035 FD #22              | 15                      | S036 FL #22         | 3.1                |
| 83 | Woman's restroom first floor west rotunda    | Sink (Right)             | S037 FD #23              | 11                      | S038 FL #23         | N/A                |
| 84 | Woman's restroom first floor east rotunda    | Sink (Left)              | S057 FD #24              | 24                      | S058 FL #24         | 3.9                |
| 85 | Woman's restroom first floor east rotunda    | Sink (Right)             | S059 FD #25              | 12                      | S060 FL #25         | N/A                |
| 86 | Visitors Services women's public restroom    | Sink (left)              | S067 FD #26              | 1.9                     | S069 FL #26         | N/A                |
| 87 | Visitors Services women's public restroom    | Sink (center)            | S069 FD #27              | 2.7                     | S070 FL #27         | N/A                |
| 88 | Visitors Services women's public restroom    | Sink (Right)             | S071 FD #28              | 3.8                     | S072 FL #28         | N/A                |
| 89 | Visitors Services men's public restroom      | Sink (left)              | S061 FD #29              | 7.1                     | S062 FL #29         | N/A                |
| 90 | Visitors Services men's public restroom      | Sink (second from left)  | S063 FD #30A             | 4.3                     | S064 FL #30A        | N/A                |
| 91 | Visitors Services men's public restroom      | Sink (Right)             | S065 FD #30B             | 2.7                     | S066 FL #30B        | N/A                |
| 92 | Governor's room 160 men's RR                 | Sink                     | S041 FD #31              | 1.6                     | S042 FL #31         | N/A                |
| 93 | Governor's room 160 women's RR               | Sink                     | S039 FD #32              | ND                      | S040 FL #32         | N/A                |
| 94 | LRO 143 restroom                             | Sink                     | S049 FD #33              | 10                      | S050 FL #33         | N/A                |

|     | Sample Location                                | Fixture Type   | First Draw Sample Number | First Draw Result (ppb) | Flush Sample Number | Flush Result (ppb) |
|-----|--|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 95  | Secretary of State restroom                    | Sink           | S055 FD #34              | 29                      | S056 FL #35         | 3.3                |
| 96  | Treasurer's office RR                          | Sink           | S043 FD #35              | 31                      | S044 FL #35         | 4.1                |
| 97  | Second Floor restroom east men's next to 243   | Sink (Left)    | S095 FD #36              | 37                      | S096 FL #36         | 6.3                |
| 98  | Second Floor restroom east men's next to 243   | Sink (center)  | S097 FD #37              | 40                      | S098 FL #37         | 4.2                |
| 99  | Second Floor restroom east men's next to 243   | Sink (Right)   | S099 FD #38              | 23                      | S100 FL #38         | 3.8                |
| 100 | Second Floor restroom east women's next to 243 | Sink (Left)    | S093 FD #39              | 21                      | S094 FL #39         | 2.9                |
| 101 | Second floor restroom west women's next to 257 | Sink (Left)    | S085 FD #40              | 27                      | S086 FL #40         | 6.3                |
| 102 | Second floor restroom west women's next to 257 | Sink (Right)   | S087 FD #41              | 11                      | S088 FL #41         | N/A                |
| 103 | Governor's private office                      | Sink           | S075 FD #42              | 20                      | S076 FL #42         | 1.6                |
| 104 | Governor's 254 restroom west                   | Sink           | S073 FD #43              | 6.2                     | S074 FL #43         | N/A                |
| 105 | Second floor restroom west men's next to 257   | Sink (Left)    | S089 FD #44              | 19                      | S090 FL #44         | 19                 |
| 106 | Second floor restroom west men's next to 257   | Sink (right)   | S091 FD #45              | 25                      | S092 FL #45         | 9                  |
| 107 | Speaker of the House restroom women's          | Sink (Left)    | S077 FD #46              | 8.7                     | S078 FL #46         | N/A                |
| 108 | Speaker of the House restroom women's          | Sink (Right)   | S079 FD #47              | 18                      | S080 FL #47         | 6.5                |
| 109 | Speaker of the House restroom men's            | Sink (Left)    | S081 FD #48              | 44                      | S082 FL #48         | 18                 |
| 110 | Speaker of the House restroom men's            | Sink (right)   | S083 FD #49              | 53                      | S084 FL #49         | 11                 |
| 111 | Secretary of the Senate men's restroom         | Sink (Left)    | S105 FD #50              | 43                      | S106 FL #50         | 13                 |
| 112 | Secretary of the Senate men's restroom         | Sink (Right)   | S107 FD #51              | 22                      | S108 FL #51         | 7.2                |
| 113 | Secretary of the Senate women's restroom       | Sink (Left)    | S101 FD #52              | 21                      | S102 FL #52         | 5.1                |
| 114 | Secretary of the Senate women's restroom       | Sink (Right)   | S103 FD #53              | 21                      | S104 FL #53         | 5.2                |
| 115 | 360 area 3rd floor men's restroom              | Sink           | S131 FD #54              | 18                      | S132 FL #54         | 12                 |
| 116 | Women's restroom 330 complex                   | Sink (Left)    | S109 FD #55              | 17                      | S110 FL #56         | 7.3                |
| 117 | Women's restroom 330 complex                   | Sink (Right)   | S111 FD #56              | 15                      | S112 FL #56         | 5.5                |
| 118 | Men's restroom 330 complex                     | Sink (Left)    | S113 FD #57              | 24                      | S114 FL #57         | 10                 |
| 119 | Men's restroom 330 complex                     | Sink (Right)   | S115 FD #58              | 23                      | S116 FL #58         | 9.2                |
| 120 | Third floor east women's restroom              | Sink (Left)    | S121 FD #59              | 38                      | S122 FL #59         | 6.3                |
| 121 | Third floor east women's restroom              | Sink (Right)   | S123 FD #60              | 41                      | S124 FL #60         | 5.5                |
| 122 | ADA restroom on west side                      | Sink           | S127 FD #61              | 2.0                     | S128 FL #61         | N/A                |
| 123 | Third floor west men's restroom                | Sink (on left) | S125 FD #62              | 18                      | S126 FL #62         | 14                 |
| 124 | Fourth floor Committee Services men's restroom | Sink           | S129 FD #63              | 19                      | S130 FL #63         | 11                 |
| 125 | Fourth floor House lounge women's restroom     | Sink           | S135 FD #64              | 23                      | S136 FL #64         | 20                 |
| 126 | Fourth floor House lounge men's restroom       | Sink           | S133 FD #65              | 22                      | S134 FL #65         | 15                 |
| 127 | Fourth floor Senate lounge men's restroom      | Sink           | S117 FD #66              | 30                      | S118 FL #66         | 12                 |

|     | Sample Location   | Fixture Type             | First Draw Sample Number | First Draw Result (ppb) | Flush Sample Number | Flush Result (ppb) |
|-----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 128 | Fourth floor Senate lounge women's restroom                 | Sink                     | S119 FD #67              | 14                      | S120 FL #67         | N/A                |
| 129 | <b>Ground East Main Corridor 1938 Building Bottle Fill</b>  | <b>Drinking Fountain</b> | <b>DF-005-FD-2</b>       | <b>21</b>               | <b>DF-006-FL-2</b>  | <b>20</b>          |
| 130 | <b>Ground East Main Corridor 1938 Building Drink Spigot</b> | <b>Drinking Fountain</b> | <b>DF-001-FD-2</b>       | <b>21</b>               | <b>DF-002-FL-2</b>  | <b>20</b>          |
| 131 | <b>Fourth Floor Main Corridor 1938 Building</b>             | <b>Drinking Fountain</b> | <b>DF-003-FD-2</b>       | <b>20</b>               | <b>DF-004-FL-2</b>  | <b>19</b>          |

N/A – Flush Not tested

