



# Water Supply

“The National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-Of-Home Child Care Programs” recommends that every child care setting be supplied with piped running water under pressure, from a source approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the state or local health authority. The water should be sufficient in quantity and pressure to supply water for cooking, cleaning, drinking, toilets and outside uses.

If a child care setting in California is using water from a private source, the licensing regulations require that they provide evidence of an onsite inspection of the source of the water, and a laboratory report showing the safety of the water. Testing of water must be conducted by the local health department, the State Department of Health Services or a licensed commercial laboratory.

Any facility not served by a public water supply shall keep documentation of approval of the water supply on file.

Drinking water must be safe for consumption. Exposure to toxic levels of lead can cause neural damage and developmental problems. In both private and public drinking water supplies where piping or joints contain lead or other toxic materials, water needs to be evaluated at the beginning of operation and at least every two years by the local health authority to determine safe lead levels.

Newly installed water handling and treatment equipment should meet applicable National Sanitation Foundation Standards.

The availability of running water for hand washing is important. No barrier (gloves) or chemical substitute (sanitizer solutions) is as effective as running water. Hand sanitizers do not substitute for hand washing. When plumbing is not available to provide a hand washing sink, the child care facility should provide an approved hand washing sink using a portable water supply that flows by gravity or pumping action during use. Children must not wash in a communal basin because those who wash in the same water share contamination.

