

MDE's (Maryland Department of  
the Environment's)  
"Notice of Tenant's Rights",  
And  
The EPA's  
"Protect Your Family from Lead  
in the Home"

With receipt page



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Additional copies of these documents may be downloaded from our website ([mdleadinsp.com/resources](http://mdleadinsp.com/resources)), free of charge.

Bound copies may be ordered at cost plus postage by sending an email request to [mdleadinsp@gmail.com](mailto:mdleadinsp@gmail.com).



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Pursuant to Maryland law, every landlord/property owner who owns residential rental property constructed prior to 1978 is required to distribute the EPA's pamphlet "Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home", and MDE's "Notice of Tenants Rights" at the time that the property is occupied and every 2 years thereafter, and the tenant is required to acknowledge receipt of these pamphlets by signing for them.

This signature page is an acknowledgement that, as a tenant living in one of these affected properties, you have received the pamphlets described above.

Address & Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*MD Lead Inspection Services has been providing lead inspection services for Maryland Rental Property owners, landlords, and property managers since 2004.*



Department of the  
Environment

# *Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*

## **Notice of Tenants' Rights**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This Notice of Tenants' Rights explains your legal rights pursuant to the Maryland Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Law, which went into effect on February 24, 1996. Under this law, property owners are required to address all potential lead-based paint hazards in rental properties constructed prior to

1950, register and annually renew registration of their properties with Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, and provide tenants with lead educational materials. This Notice of Tenant's Rights also provides a detailed explanation of what property owners are required to do to comply with the law, how to inform your landlord that repairs need to be performed in your home, and steps you can take to enforce your legal rights if your landlord refuses to respond to your request.

**Please read this material carefully and call the Lead Hotline at 410-537-4199 or 800-776-2706 if you have any questions. (TTY Users 800-735-2258)**

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### **I HAVE JUST MOVED INTO A RENTAL DWELLING THAT WAS BUILT BEFORE 1950, WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

In order to be fully compliant with the law, your landlord is required to:

- 1) Give you the Notice of Tenant Rights, the EPA brochure, "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home," and a copy of the lead inspection certificate for the unit on or before the day you move in. The property owner may ask you to sign a statement acknowledging that you received these items.

- 2) Ensure that the property is currently registered with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and is required to pay a \$30.00 per property/unit registration fee.
- 3) Obtain a passing Full Risk Reduction certificate prior to you moving into the property

## **DOES MY RENTAL DWELLING UNIT HAVE TO BE INSPECTED BEFORE I MOVE IN?**

Yes. The property owner must have the unit inspected at the owner's expense. All inspections are required to be performed by an inspector accredited by MDE. If the house passes the inspection, the property owner will be given a Lead Paint Risk Reduction Inspection Certificate. This certificate will be on file

at MDE. The owner is required to give you a copy of the inspection certificate when you move in. If you wish to know the results of the inspection, ask your landlord or call the Lead Hotline at 410-537-4199, 1-800-776-2706, or TTY 800-735-2258.



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## **ARE THERE OTHER TIMES THAT THE PROPERTY OWNER MUST COMPLY WITH SPECIAL STANDARDS WHILE I LIVE HERE?**

Yes. When a child under six or a pregnant woman has an elevated blood lead level (EBL) 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$  or more, the local health department will inform the property owner of the obligation to meet the **Modified Risk Reduction Standard**.

The Modified Risk Reduction Standard must also be met when the property owner receives a written Notice of Defect that there are structural defects and/or chipping, peeling, and flaking paint in your home. Chipping, peeling and flaking paint in pre-1950 constructed rental

properties is presumed to contain lead, which can be dangerous to you and your children. The property owner will have 30 days to satisfy the Modified Reduction Standard after receipt of a written Notice of Elevated Blood Lead Level or Notice of Defect.

**HOW DO I TELL THE PROPERTY OWNER ABOUT STRUCTURAL DEFECTS and/or THAT THERE IS CHIPPING, PEELING, AND FLAKING PAINT IN MY HOME?**

You must send a notice to the property owner in writing. You may either write a letter or use a “Notice of Defect Form.” A sample copy of the form is attached on page 5. When sending a notice, it is suggested to send it **Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested** or **Hand Deliver** it to the property owner and obtain a signature evidencing receipt. This documentation is also useful when making a referral to MDE or your local housing department.

Once the property owner receives the notice, your property must satisfy the Modified Risk Reduction Standard within 30 days.

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**HOW DOES AN OWNER MEET THE MODIFIED RISK REDUCTION STANDARD?**

Within 30 days after the receipt or a Notice of Elevated Blood Lead Level or Notice of Defect, the property owner provides for the temporary relocation of tenants to a lead free dwelling unit or another dwelling unit that has meet the full risk reduction standard;

OR

Within 30 days after the receipt or a Notice of Elevated Blood Lead Level or Notice of Defect, the property owner ensures that the property passes a test for lead contaminated dust and by performing certain lead hazard reduction treatments. The property owner must pay for those repairs and must use a contractors accredited by MDE to perform lead abatement work.

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## **SHOULD MY FAMILY STAY IN THE HOME WHILE REPAIRS ARE BEING MADE?**

Nobody is permitted in the work area. Pregnant women and children under 6 years old are prohibited from being in the house while the lead hazard reduction treatments are being performed. If you are required to leave your house for more than 24 hours while treatments are performed, the property owner must pay for all your reasonable expenses directly related to your required relocation to temporary lead safe housing.

The property owner is also responsible for expenses related to the moving, storing, or cleaning of furniture, and possibly food costs for the family while work is being done in the home.

**You must allow the property owner to enter your home to do the treatments.**

The property owner is required to have the home inspected to verify the Modified Risk Reduction standard has been met. After all work is completed, an MDE accredited inspector must inspect the property to verify compliance with the Modified Risk Reduction standard.

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## **WHAT IF MY LANDLORD HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THE LAW, OR HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO MY NOTICE?**



### **1. Make a Referral**

If you have given your landlord a written Notice of Defect or Notice of EBL and no repairs have been completed, you can make a referral to Maryland Department of the Environment's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program by calling 1-800-776-2706 or 410-537-3825. When making a referral, please provide copies of the

Notice of Defect or Notice of EBL, along with any verification of receipt you may have.

## **2. Rent Escrow**

Rent Escrow is a legal process that requires you to file a Complaint for Rent Escrow in the District Court in the county in which you live. If the District Court grants your request for an escrow account, you will be required to pay your rent into the District Court's escrow account instead of to your landlord. This provides an incentive for your landlord to complete repairs in your home that threaten the life, health, or safety of you and your family. In order to have an escrow account established based on lead hazards, you only need to prove that your landlord is not in compliance with Maryland's Lead Laws.

An escrow account is only established after all facts have been presented to a judge in a judicial proceeding. Therefore, it is suggested that you seek the advice and representation of an attorney.

## **3. Rent Protection**

In 2004, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation requiring landlords to confirm their compliance with Maryland's Lead Risk Reduction in Housing Law when filing for repossession of property based on a tenant's failure to pay rent. If the property to be repossessed was constructed prior to 1950, the landlord must state that they are currently registered with Maryland Department of the Environment and provide the certificate number for the inspection conducted for the current tenancy. Failure to provide this information may result in the dismissal of the landlord's complaint.

## **4. Retaliatory Eviction**

It is unlawful for your landlord to evict you for complaining about dangerous conditions present in your home, including the presence of peeling, chipping, and flaking paint. The law protects tenants against eviction and illegal rent increases initiated after notification. It is presumed that any attempt to evict a tenant or to raise the rent, except for nonpayment of rent, within two months after compliance with the applicable risk reduction standard, is in retaliation for the tenant's notification of dangerous conditions, and shall be void. It is also against the law for the property owner to evict you because there is someone in your home found to have a high blood lead level.

If you have any questions about the Maryland Lead Law, visit: [www.mde.state.md.us/lead](http://www.mde.state.md.us/lead) or call the Lead Hotline at 410-537-4199 or tollfree at 1-800-776-2706, or TTY 1-800-735-2258.



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land Management Administration • Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

1800 Washington Boulevard, • Suite 630 • Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1719

410-537-3825 • 800-633-6101 x3825 • [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us)

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## Notice of Defect/Notice of Elevated Blood Level

Send this notice by certified mail, return receipt requested or hand-deliver this notice and get a signature from the property owner or the property owner's agent or manager.

To: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

Property Subject To This Notice: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS IS TO NOTIFY YOU TO MEET THE MODIFIED RISK REDUCTION STANDARD AS REQUIRED BY § 6-819 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND BECAUSE:**

\_\_\_ A child under the age of six years, or a pregnant woman, residing at the above address has been diagnosed with a blood lead level of 10 µg/dl or more on; **and/or**

\_\_\_ The following defects require your attention:

**The following areas contain peeling, chipping, flaking paint that is accessible to a child:**

- |                                      |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hallway        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dining Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Front Porch | <input type="checkbox"/> Stairway       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bedroom     | <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior Walls |

**The following areas contain structural defects:**

- |                                      |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hallway        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dining Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Front Porch | <input type="checkbox"/> Stairway       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bedroom     | <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior Walls |

**Other Hazardous Conditions:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
PROPERTY OWNER / MANAGER SIGNATURE

I, \_\_\_\_\_ owner / manager of the above-noted property (circle one) hereby acknowledge receiving this Notice of Defect / EBL.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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# Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home

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United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



United States  
Consumer Product  
Safety Commission



United States  
Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

## Are You Planning to Buy or Rent a Home Built Before 1978?

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Did you know that many homes built before 1978 have **lead-based paint**? Lead from paint, chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards.

### Read this entire brochure to learn:

- How lead gets into the body
- About health effects of lead
- What you can do to protect your family
- Where to go for more information

### Before renting or buying a pre-1978 home or apartment, federal law requires:

- Sellers must disclose known information on lead-based paint or leadbased paint hazards before selling a house.
- Real estate sales contracts must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint. Buyers have up to 10 days to check for lead.
- Landlords must disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. Leases must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint.

### If undertaking renovations, repairs, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or apartment:

- Read EPA's pamphlet, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*, to learn about the lead-safe work practices that contractors are required to follow when working in your home (see page 12).



## Simple Steps to Protect Your Family from Lead Hazards

### If you think your home has lead-based paint:

- Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.
- Always keep painted surfaces in good condition to minimize deterioration.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards. Find a certified inspector or risk assessor at [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead).
- Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe certified renovation firms.
- Before buying, renting, or renovating your home, have it checked for lead-based paint.
- Consult your health care provider about testing your children for lead. Your pediatrician can check for lead with a simple blood test.
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.
- Remove shoes or wipe soil off shoes before entering your house.

## Lead Gets into the Body in Many Ways

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**Adults and children can get lead into their bodies if they:**

- Breathe in lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs, or painting that disturb painted surfaces).
- Swallow lead dust that has settled on food, food preparation surfaces, and other places.
- Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead.

**Lead is especially dangerous to children under the age of 6.**

- At this age, children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead.
- Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. These objects can have lead dust on them.



**Women of childbearing age should know that lead is dangerous to a developing fetus.**

- Women with a high lead level in their system before or during pregnancy risk exposing the fetus to lead through the placenta during fetal development.

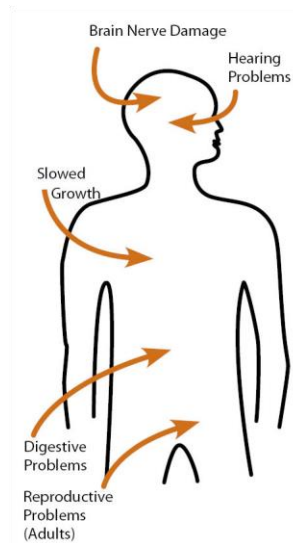
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## Health Effects of Lead

**Lead affects the body in many ways.** It is important to know that even exposure to low levels of lead can severely harm children.

### In children, exposure to lead can cause:

- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language, and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage



While low-lead exposure is most common, exposure to high amounts of lead can have devastating effects on children, including seizures, unconsciousness, and, in some cases, death.

Although children are especially susceptible to lead exposure, lead can be dangerous for adults, too.

### In adults, exposure to lead can cause:

- Harm to a developing fetus
- Increased chance of high blood pressure during pregnancy
- Fertility problems (in men and women)
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems

- Nerve disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pain



## Check Your Family for Lead

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**Get your children and home tested if you think your home has lead.**

Children's blood lead levels tend to increase rapidly from 6 to 12 months of age, and tend to peak at 18 to 24 months of age.

Consult your doctor for advice on testing your children. A simple blood test can detect lead. Blood lead tests are usually recommended for:

- Children at ages 1 and 2
- Children or other family members who have been exposed to high levels of lead
- Children who should be tested under your state or local health screening plan

**Your doctor can explain what the test results mean and if more testing will be needed.**

## Where Lead-Based Paint Is Found

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In general, the older your home or childcare facility, the more likely it has lead-based paint.<sup>1</sup>

**Many homes, including private, federally-assisted, federally owned housing, and childcare facilities built before 1978 have lead-based paint.** In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint.<sup>2</sup>

Learn how to determine if paint is lead-based paint on page 7.

### Lead can be found:

- In homes and childcare facilities in the city, country, or suburbs,
- In private and public single-family homes and apartments,
- On surfaces inside and outside of the house, and
- In soil around a home. (Soil can pick up lead from exterior paint or other sources, such as past use of leaded gas in cars.)

Learn more about where lead is found at [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead).

## Identifying Lead-Based Paint and Lead-Based Paint Hazards

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**Deteriorating lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, or damaged paint)** is a hazard and needs immediate attention. **Lead-based paint** may also be a hazard when found on surfaces that children can chew or that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

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<sup>1</sup> “Lead-based paint” is currently defined by the federal government as paint with lead levels greater than or equal to 1.0 milligram per square centimeter (mg/cm), or more than 0.5% by weight.

<sup>2</sup> “Lead-containing paint” is currently defined by the federal government as lead in new dried paint in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

- On windows and window sills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters, and porches

**Lead-based paint is usually not a hazard if it is in good condition** and if it is not on an impact or friction surface like a window.

**Lead dust** can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. Lead dust also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together. Lead paint chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can reenter the air when the home is vacuumed or swept, or when people walk through it. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in dust as hazardous:

- 40 micrograms per square foot ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ ) and higher for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  and higher for interior window sills

**Lead in soil** can be a hazard when children play in bare soil or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in soil as hazardous:

- 400 parts per million (ppm) and higher in play areas of bare soil
- 1,200 ppm (average) and higher in bare soil in the remainder of the yard

**Remember, lead from paint chips—which you can see—and lead dust—which you may not be able to see—both can be hazards.**

The only way to find out if paint, dust, or soil lead hazards exist is to test for them. The next page describes how to do this.

## Checking Your Home for Lead

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You can get your home tested for lead in several different ways:

- A lead-based paint **inspection** tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether your home currently has lead hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a lead-based paint inspector, will conduct a paint inspection using methods, such as:

- Portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine
- Lab tests of paint samples

- A **risk assessment** tells you if your home currently has any lead hazards from lead in paint, dust, or soil. It also tells you what actions to take to address any hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a risk assessor, will:

- Sample paint that is deteriorated on doors, windows, floors, stairs, and walls
- Sample dust near painted surfaces and sample bare soil in the yard
- Get lab tests of paint, dust, and soil samples
- A combination inspection and risk assessment tells you if your home has any lead-based paint and if your home has any lead hazards, and where both are located.



Be sure to read the report provided to you after your inspection or risk assessment is completed, and ask questions about anything you do not understand.

## Checking Your Home for Lead, continued

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In preparing for renovation, repair, or painting work in a pre-1978 home, Lead-Safe Certified renovators (see page 12) may:

- Take paint chip samples to determine if lead-based paint is present in the area planned for renovation and send them to an EPA-recognized lead lab for analysis. In housing receiving federal assistance, the person

collecting these samples must be a certified lead-based paint inspector or risk assessor

- Use EPA-recognized tests kits to determine if lead-based paint is absent (but not in housing receiving federal assistance)
- Presume that lead-based paint is present and use lead-safe work practices

There are state and federal programs in place to ensure that testing is done safely, reliably, and effectively. Contact your state or local agency for more information, visit [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead), or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)** for a list of contacts in your area.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8399.

## What You Can Do Now to Protect Your Family

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**If you suspect that your house has lead-based paint hazards, you can take some immediate steps to reduce your family's risk:**

- If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
- Keep painted surfaces clean and free of dust. Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. (Remember: never mix ammonia and bleach products together because they can form a dangerous gas.)
- Carefully clean up paint chips immediately without creating dust.
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads often during cleaning of dirty or dusty areas, and again afterward.
- Wash your hands and your children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time.
- Keep play areas clean. Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys, and stuffed animals regularly.
- Keep children from chewing window sills or other painted surfaces, or eating soil.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe Certified renovation firms (see page 12).
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Make sure children eat nutritious, low-fat meals high in iron, and calcium, such as spinach and dairy products. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

## Reducing Lead Hazards

**Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house.**

- In addition to day-to-day cleaning and good nutrition, you can **temporarily** reduce lead-based paint hazards by taking actions, such as repairing damaged painted surfaces and planting grass to cover lead contaminated soil. These actions are not permanent solutions and will need ongoing attention.
- You can minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing, or painting by hiring an EPA- or state certified renovator who is trained in the use of lead-safe work practices. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, learn how to use lead-safe work practices in your home.
- To remove lead hazards permanently, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement (or permanent hazard elimination) methods include removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Just painting over the hazard with regular paint is not permanent control.

**Always use a certified contractor who is trained to address lead hazards safely.**

- Hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm (see page 12) to perform renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects that disturb painted surfaces.
- To correct lead hazards permanently, hire a certified lead abatement professional. This will ensure your contractor knows how to work safely and has the proper equipment to clean up thoroughly.

Certified contractors will employ qualified workers and follow strict safety rules as set by their state or by the federal government.

## Reducing Lead Hazards, continued

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**If your home has had lead abatement work done** or if the housing is receiving federal assistance, once the work is completed, dust cleanup activities must be conducted until clearance testing indicates that lead dust levels are below the following levels:

- 40 micrograms per square foot ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ ) for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  for interior windows sills
- 400  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  for window troughs

For help in locating certified lead abatement professionals in your area, call your state or local agency (see pages 14 and 15), or visit [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead), or call 1-800-424-LEAD.



## Renovating, Remodeling, or Repairing (RRP) a Home with Lead-Based Paint

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If you hire a contractor to conduct renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or childcare facility (such as pre-school and kindergarten), your contractor must:

- Be a Lead-Safe Certified firm approved by EPA or an EPA-authorized state program
- Use qualified trained individuals (Lead-Safe Certified renovators) who follow specific lead-safe work practices to prevent lead contamination
- Provide a copy of EPA's lead hazard information document, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*



**RRP contractors working in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities must follow lead-safe work practices that:**

- **Contain the work area.** The area must be contained so that dust and debris do not escape from the work area. Warning signs must be put up, and plastic or other impermeable material and tape must be used.
- **Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.** Some methods generate so much leadcontaminated dust that their use is prohibited. They are:
  - Open-flame burning or torching
  - Sanding, grinding, planing, needle gunning, or blasting with power tools and equipment not equipped with a shroud and HEPA vacuum attachment and
  - Using a heat gun at temperatures greater than 1100°F
- **Clean up thoroughly.** The work area should be cleaned up daily. When all the work is done, the area must be cleaned up using special cleaning methods.
- **Dispose of waste properly.** Collect and seal waste in a heavy duty bag or sheeting. When transported, ensure that waste is contained to prevent release of dust and debris.

To learn more about EPA's requirements for RRP projects visit [epa.gov/getleadsafe](https://www.epa.gov/getleadsafe), or read *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*.

## Other Sources of Lead

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**While paint, dust, and soil are the most common sources of lead, other lead sources also exist:**

- **Drinking water.** Your home might have plumbing with lead or lead solder. You cannot see, smell, or taste lead, and boiling your water will not get rid of lead. If you think your plumbing might contain lead:
  - Use only cold water for drinking and cooking.
  - Run water for 15 to 30 seconds before drinking it, especially if you have not used your water for a few hours.

Call your local health department or water supplier to find out about testing your water, or visit [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead) for EPA's lead in drinking water information.

- **Lead smelters** or other industries that release lead into the air.
- **Your job.** If you work with lead, you could bring it home on your body or clothes. Shower and change clothes before coming home. Launder your work clothes separately from the rest of your family's clothes.
- **Hobbies** that use lead, such as making pottery or stained glass, or refinishing furniture. Call your local health department for information about hobbies that may use lead.
- Old **toys** and **furniture** may have been painted with lead-containing paint. Older toys and other children's products may have parts that contain lead.<sup>4</sup>
- Food and liquids cooked or stored in **lead crystal** or **lead-glazed pottery or porcelain** may contain lead.

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<sup>4</sup> In 1978, the federal government banned toys, other children's products, and furniture with lead-containing paint (16 CFR 1303). In 2008, the federal government banned lead in most children's products. The federal government currently bans lead in excess of 100 ppm by weight in most children's products (76 FR 44463).

- Folk remedies, such as “greta” and “azarcon,” used to treat an upset stomach.

## For More Information

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### The National Lead Information Center

Learn how to protect children from lead poisoning and get other information about lead hazards on the Web at [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead) and [hud.gov/lead](http://hud.gov/lead), or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)**.

### EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For information about lead in drinking water, call **1-800-426-4791**, or visit [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead) for information about lead in drinking water.

### Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Hotline

For information on lead in toys and other consumer products, or to report an unsafe consumer product or a product-related injury, call **1-800-638-2772**, or visit CPSC’s website at [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) or [saferproducts.gov](http://saferproducts.gov).

### State and Local Health and Environmental Agencies

Some states, tribes, and cities have their own rules related to lead-based paint. Check with your local agency to see which laws apply to you. Most agencies can also provide information on finding a lead abatement firm in your area, and on possible sources of financial aid for reducing lead hazards. Receive up-to-date address and phone information for your state or local contacts on the Web at [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead), or contact the National Lead Information Center at **1-800-424-LEAD**.

Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access any of the phone numbers in this brochure through TTY by calling the tollfree Federal Relay Service at **1-800-877-8339**.

# U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

## Regional Offices

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The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Your Regional EPA Office can provide further information regarding regulations and lead protection programs.

**Region 1** (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Regional Lead Contact

U.S. EPA Region 1

5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, OES 05-4

Boston, MA 02109-3912

(888) 372-7341

**Region 2** (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) Regional

Lead Contact

U.S. EPA Region 2

2890 Woodbridge Avenue

Building 205, Mail Stop 225

Edison, NJ 08837-3679

(732) 321-6671

**Region 3** (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, DC, West Virginia)

Regional Lead Contact

U.S. EPA Region 3

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 814-2088

**Region 4** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

Regional Lead Contact

U.S. EPA Region 4

AFC Tower, 12th Floor, Air, Pesticides & Toxics

61 Forsyth Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 562-8998

**Region 5** (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Regional Lead Contact

U.S. EPA Region 5 (DT-8J)

77 West Jackson Boulevard

Chicago, IL 60604-3666

(312) 886-7836

**Region 6** (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and 66 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact

U.S. EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

(214) 665-2704

**Region 7** (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

Regional Lead Contact U.S.

EPA Region 7

11201 Renner Blvd.

WWPD/TOPE

Lenexa, KS 66219

(800) 223-0425

**Region 8** (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Regional Lead Contact

U.S. EPA Region 8 1595

Wynkoop St.

Denver, CO 80202

(303) 312-6966

**Region 9** (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada) Regional Lead

Contact

U.S. EPA Region 9 (CMD-4-2)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105 (415)  
947-4280

**Region 10** (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,  
Washington) Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
Solid Waste & Toxics Unit (WCM-128)  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-1200

## Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

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The CPSC protects the public against unreasonable risk of injury from consumer products through education, safety standards activities, and enforcement. Contact CPSC for further information regarding consumer product safety and regulations.

### CPSC

4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4421  
1-800-638-2772 [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) or  
[saferproducts.gov](http://saferproducts.gov)

## U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. Contact HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control for further information regarding the Lead Safe Housing Rule, which protects families in pre-1978 assisted housing, and for the lead hazard control and research grant programs.

### HUD

451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8236  
Washington, DC 20410-3000  
(202) 402-7698  
[hud.gov/offices/lead/](http://hud.gov/offices/lead/)

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U. S. EPA Washington DC 20460  
U. S. CPSC Bethesda MD 20814  
U. S. HUD Washington DC 20410

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# IMPORTANT!

## Lead From Paint, Dust, and Soil in and Around Your Home Can Be Dangerous if Not Managed Properly

- Children under 6 years old are most at risk for lead poisoning in your home.
- Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.
- Homes, schools, and child care facilities built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Even children who seem healthy may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.
- Disturbing surfaces with lead-based paint or removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.
- People can get lead into their bodies by breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.
- People have many options for reducing lead hazards. Generally, lead-based paint that is in good condition is not a hazard (see page 10).