



## Information About Brokerage Services

*Texas law requires all real estate licensees to give the following information about brokerage services to prospective buyers, tenants, sellers and landlords.*

### TYPES OF REAL ESTATE LICENSE HOLDERS:

- **A BROKER** is responsible for all brokerage activities, including acts performed by sales agents sponsored by the broker.
- **A SALES AGENT** must be sponsored by a broker and works with clients on behalf of the broker.

### A BROKER'S MINIMUM DUTIES REQUIRED BY LAW (A client is the person or party that the broker represents):

- Put the interests of the client above all others, including the broker's own interests;
- Inform the client of any material information about the property or transaction received by the broker;
- Answer the client's questions and present any offer to or counter-offer from the client; and
- Treat all parties to a real estate transaction honestly and fairly.

### A LICENSE HOLDER CAN REPRESENT A PARTY IN A REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION:

**AS AGENT FOR OWNER (SELLER/LANDLORD):** The broker becomes the property owner's agent through an agreement with the owner, usually in a written listing to sell or property management agreement. An owner's agent must perform the broker's minimum duties above and must inform the owner of any material information about the property or transaction known by the agent, including information disclosed to the agent or subagent by the buyer or buyer's agent.

**AS AGENT FOR BUYER/TENANT:** The broker becomes the buyer/tenant's agent by agreeing to represent the buyer, usually through a written representation agreement. A buyer's agent must perform the broker's minimum duties above and must inform the buyer of any material information about the property or transaction known by the agent, including information disclosed to the agent by the seller or seller's agent.

**AS AGENT FOR BOTH - INTERMEDIARY:** To act as an intermediary between the parties the broker must first obtain the written agreement of each party to the transaction. The written agreement must state who will pay the broker and, in conspicuous bold or underlined print, set forth the broker's obligations as an intermediary. A broker who acts as an intermediary:

- Must treat all parties to the transaction impartially and fairly;
- May, with the parties' written consent, appoint a different license holder associated with the broker to each party (owner and buyer) to communicate with, provide opinions and advice to, and carry out the instructions of each party to the transaction.
- Must not, unless specifically authorized in writing to do so by the party, disclose:
  - that the owner will accept a price less than the written asking price;
  - that the buyer/tenant will pay a price greater than the price submitted in a written offer; and
  - any confidential information or any other information that a party specifically instructs the broker in writing not to disclose, unless required to do so by law.

**AS SUBAGENT:** A license holder acts as a subagent when aiding a buyer in a transaction without an agreement to represent the buyer. A subagent can assist the buyer but does not represent the buyer and must place the interests of the owner first.

### TO AVOID DISPUTES, ALL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN YOU AND A BROKER SHOULD BE IN WRITING AND CLEARLY ESTABLISH:

- The broker's duties and responsibilities to you, and your obligations under the representation agreement.
- Who will pay the broker for services provided to you, when payment will be made and how the payment will be calculated.

**LICENSE HOLDER CONTACT INFORMATION:** This notice is being provided for information purposes. It does not create an obligation for you to use the broker's services. Please acknowledge receipt of this notice below and retain a copy for your records.

_____ Licensed Broker /Broker Firm Name or Primary Assumed Business Name	_____ License No.	_____ Email	_____ Phone
_____ Designated Broker of Firm	_____ License No.	_____ Email	_____ Phone
_____ Licensed Supervisor of Sales Agent/ Associate	_____ License No.	_____ Email	_____ Phone
_____ <b>Lynne Boynton</b> Sales Agent/Associate's Name	_____ License No.	_____ <b>lynneboynton@gmail.com</b> Email	_____ <b>(281)914-0684</b> Phone
_____ Buyer/Tenant/Seller/Landlord Initials		_____ Date	

Regulated by the Texas Real Estate Commission

Information available at [www.trec.texas.gov](http://www.trec.texas.gov)

IABS 1-0 Date



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_____ Designated Broker of Firm	_____ License No.	_____ Email	_____ Phone
_____ Licensed Supervisor of Sales Agent/ Associate	_____ License No.	_____ Email	_____ Phone
_____ Sales Agent/Associate's Name	_____ License No.	_____ Email	_____ Phone
_____ Buyer/Tenant/Seller/Landlord Initials		_____ Date	

Regulated by the Texas Real Estate Commission

Information available at [www.trec.texas.gov](http://www.trec.texas.gov)

IABS 1-0 Date



SELLER'S TEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL LEASE

- 1. PARTIES: The parties to this Lease are
(Landlord) and (Tenant).
2. LEASE: Landlord leases to Tenant the Property described in the Contract between Landlord as Buyer and Tenant as Seller known as (address).
3. TERM: The term of this Lease commences on the date the sale covered by the Contract is closed and funded and terminates, unless terminated earlier by reason of other provisions.
4. RENTAL: Tenant shall pay to Landlord as rental \$ per day (excluding the day of closing and funding) with the full amount of rental for the term of the Lease to be paid at the time of funding of the sale.
5. DEPOSIT: Tenant shall pay to Landlord at the time of funding of the sale \$ as a deposit to secure performance of this Lease by Tenant.
6. UTILITIES: Tenant shall pay all utility charges except which Landlord shall pay.
7. USE OF PROPERTY: Tenant may use the Property only for residential purposes.
8. PETS: Tenant may not keep pets on the Property except.
9. CONDITION OF PROPERTY: Tenant accepts the Property in its present condition and state of repair at the commencement of the Lease.
10. ALTERATIONS: Tenant may not alter the Property or install improvements or fixtures without the prior written consent of the Landlord.
11. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:
12. INSPECTIONS: Landlord may enter at reasonable times to inspect the Property.
13. LAWS: Tenant shall comply with all applicable laws, restrictions, ordinances, rules and regulations with respect to the Property.
14. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE: Except as otherwise provided in this Lease, Tenant shall bear all expense of repairing and maintaining the Property, including but not limited to the yard, trees and shrubs, unless otherwise required by the Texas Property Code.

Initialed for identification by Landlord and Tenant

TREC NO. 15-5

(Address of Property)

- 15. INDEMNITY:** Tenant indemnifies Landlord from the claims of all third parties for injury or damage to the person or property of such third party arising from the use or occupancy of the Property by Tenant. This indemnification includes attorney's fees, costs and expenses incurred by Landlord.
- 16. INSURANCE:** Landlord and Tenant shall each maintain such insurance on the contents and Property as each party may deem appropriate during the term of this Lease. NOTE: CONSULT YOUR INSURANCE AGENT; POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY BY SELLER AS TENANT MAY CHANGE INSURANCE POLICY COVERAGE.
- 17. DEFAULT:** If Tenant fails to perform or observe any provision of this Lease and fails, within 24 hours after notice by Landlord, to commence and diligently pursue to remedy such failure, Tenant will be in default.
- 18. TERMINATION:** This Lease terminates upon expiration of the term specified in Paragraph 3 or upon Tenant's default under this Lease.
- 19. HOLDING OVER:** Tenant shall surrender possession of the Property upon termination of this Lease. Any possession by Tenant after termination creates a tenancy at sufferance and will not operate to renew or extend this Lease. Tenant shall pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per day during the period of any possession after termination as damages, in addition to any other remedies to which Landlord is entitled.
- 20. ATTORNEY'S FEES:** The prevailing party in any legal proceeding brought under or with respect to this Lease is entitled to recover from the non-prevailing party all costs of such proceeding and reasonable attorney's fees.
- 21. SMOKE ALARMS:** The Texas Property Code requires Landlord to install smoke alarms in certain locations within the Property at Landlord's expense. Tenant expressly waives Landlord's duty to inspect and repair smoke alarms.
- 22. SECURITY DEVICES:** The requirements of the Texas Property Code relating to security devices do not apply to a residential lease for a term of 90 days or less.
- 23. CONSULT YOUR ATTORNEY:** Real estate licensees cannot give legal advice. This Lease is intended to be legally binding. READ IT CAREFULLY. If you do not understand the effect of this Lease, consult your attorney BEFORE signing.
- 24. NOTICES:** All notices from one party to the other must be in writing and are effective when mailed to, hand-delivered at, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic transmission as follows:

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant

The form of this contract has been approved by the Texas Real Estate Commission. TREC forms are intended for use only by trained real estate licensees. No representation is made as to the legal validity or adequacy of any provision in any specific transactions. It is not intended for complex transactions. Texas Real Estate Commission, P.O. Box 12188, Austin, TX 78711-2188, 512-936-3000 (<http://www.trec.texas.gov>) TREC NO. 15-5. This form replaces TREC NO. 15-4.



## GENERAL INFORMATION AND NOTICE TO BUYERS AND SELLERS

USE OF THIS FORM BY PERSONS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, INC. IS NOT AUTHORIZED.  
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**Be an informed seller or buyer. The following information may assist you during your real estate transaction.**

**ANNEXATION.** If a property is outside the limits of a municipality, the buyer should be aware that the property may later be annexed by a nearby municipality. The buyer may find information on the boundaries of nearby municipalities by contacting the municipalities directly.

**APPRAISAL.** An appraisal is a valuation of the property. An appraiser renders an estimate of value as of a certain date under assumptions and conditions stated in the appraisal report. Typically, a buyer's lender requires an appraisal to verify that the loan is secured by property that is worth a certain amount. An appraisal is not the same as an inspection.

**BROKERS.** A real estate broker *represents* a party (buyer or seller) in a real estate transaction or may act as an intermediary between the parties. A party may work with the broker or with one of the broker's agents. Both a buyer and seller will be provided a form titled "Information About Brokerage Services" (TXR 2501) which defines agency relationships. An agent may help a seller market the property or help a buyer locate a property. The agent is obligated to *negotiate* the transaction and may assist in gathering information and may coordinate many details in the transaction. Brokers and agents are not inspectors. They do not possess the expertise to conduct inspections and therefore do not make any representations, warranties, or guarantees about a property's condition. Agents are not attorneys. Parties are encouraged to seek the assistance of an attorney to help in understanding any of the legal consequences and provisions of the contract or transaction.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.

**General.** Over the years the market has identified environmental conditions that buyers should know may exist. Environmental hazards include, but are not limited to, conditions such as: asbestos, lead-based paint, mold, pesticides, radon gas, toxic waste, underground storage tanks, urea formaldehyde insulation, and other pollutants. Wetlands or endangered species on the property may restrict the use of the property.

**Environmental Inspections.** If the buyer is concerned that environmental hazards, wetlands, or endangered species may be present on the property, the buyer should hire a qualified expert to inspect the property for such items. The parties may include a promulgated addendum (TXR 1917) in the contract that may address such matters.

**Lead-Based Paint.** If a property was built before 1978, federal law requires that the seller provide the buyer with: (1) the pamphlet titled "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home" (TXR 2511); (2) the records and reports the seller has concerning lead-based paint or hazards; and (3) an opportunity to have the property inspected for lead-based paint or hazards.

**Mold.** It is not uncommon to find mold spores in a property. The concern about mold increases when there are large amounts of mold found in a property. The Texas Department of Insurance publishes a document titled "Protect Your Home from Mold" (TXR 2507) which discusses mold in more detail.

**Oak Wilt and Diseased Trees.** There are diseases such as oak wilt and other conditions that may affect trees and other plants. Oak wilt is a fungus that affects certain oak trees. If the buyer is concerned about such matters, the buyer may have the trees and other plants inspected by a professional.

**Noise.** Surrounding properties are used for a variety of purposes. Some of the uses cause noise (for example, airports, railways, highways, restaurants, bars, schools, arenas and construction). The buyer is encouraged to drive to review the area around the property at various times and days.

**EXPANSIVE SOILS.** Soil conditions vary greatly throughout Texas. Many soils will move; some more than others. This movement will, many times, affect the foundation of homes and buildings and may cause cracks to appear in walls or other parts of the building. Additionally, if a property is newly constructed, the concrete curing process may also cause the foundation of the building to move. Seasonal changes in the moisture in the soil may also cause foundations to move. The buyer should check with an inspector and other experts on preventive methods to minimize the risk of such movement.

**FIRPTA.** The Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (FIRPTA) may require buyers in certain transactions involving a seller who qualifies as a "foreign person" to withhold up to 15% of the amount realized by the seller (usually the sales price) for federal taxes. A "foreign person" is defined as a: (1) nonresident alien individual; (2) foreign corporation that has not made an election under section 897(i) of the Internal Revenue Code to be treated as a domestic corporation; or (3) foreign partnership, trust, or estate. The definition does not include a resident alien individual. A seller should notify the buyer whether the seller is a "foreign person" as defined by federal law. If the seller is unsure whether he or she qualifies as a "foreign person", the seller should consult a tax professional or an attorney.

**FLOOD HAZARD, FLOODWAYS, AND FLOOD INSURANCE.** Many properties are in flood hazard areas. Lenders who make loans on properties located in special flood hazard areas typically require the owner to maintain flood insurance. Additionally, some properties may lie in the floodway. The Texas Association of REALTORS® publishes a form titled, "Information about Special Flood Hazard Areas" (TXR 1414), which discusses flood hazard areas and floodways in more detail. The buyer is encouraged to buy flood insurance regardless of whether the property is in a high, moderate, or low risk flood area.

**HISTORIC OR CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.** Properties located in historic or conservation districts may have restrictions on use and architecture of the properties. Local governments may create historic or conservation districts for the preservation of certain architectural appeal. A property owner may or may not be aware if the property is located in such a district. If the buyer is concerned whether the property is located in such a district, contact the local government for specific information.

#### **INSPECTION, REPAIRS, & WALK-THROUGH.**

*Inspections.* The buyer is encouraged to have the property inspected by licensed inspectors. The buyer should have the inspections completed during any option period. The buyer should accompany the inspectors during the inspections and ask the inspectors any questions. Brokers and agents do not possess any special skills, knowledge or expertise concerning inspections or repairs. If the buyer requests names of inspectors or repair professionals from an agent, the buyer should note that the agent is not making any representation or warranty as to the ability or workmanship of the inspector or repair professionals.

*Repairs.* The buyer and the seller should resolve, in writing, any obligation and any timing of the obligation to complete repairs the buyer may request before the option period expires.

*Walk-Through.* Before the close of the sale, the buyer should walk through the property and verify that any repairs are complete. If the condition of the property does not satisfy the contractual provisions, the buyer should notify the buyer's agent before closing.

**MANDATORY OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS.** An owners' association may require a property owner to be a member. The buyer may obtain subdivision information (the restrictions applying to the subdivision, the bylaws and rules of the owners' association, and a resale certificate). The buyer may be required to pay for the subdivision information unless otherwise negotiated in the contract. If membership in an owners' association is required, the buyer will probably be obligated to pay periodic dues or assessments. Failure to pay such dues could result in a lien on and foreclosure of the property.

**MINERAL INTERESTS.** Determining who owns the mineral interests under a property (for example, rights to oil and gas interests) normally requires an expert to review the chain of title to the property. Many times the mineral interests may have been severed from the property and may be owned by persons other than the seller. Contract forms commonly used in Texas provide that the seller's interest, if any, in the mineral interests convey to the buyer as part of the property. However, a seller may wish to retain all or a part of the mineral interests. Texas REALTORS® publishes a form titled "Information about Mineral Clauses in Contract Forms" (TXR 2509) which discusses this issue in more detail.

**MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE.** The Multiple Listing Service (MLS) is a database and cooperative tool between brokers. Agents who use the MLS must comply with the MLS's rules. The listing agent is required to timely report the current status of a listing, including when the property is sold or leased or is no longer available, as well as the sales price. Subscribers (other brokers, agents, appraisers, and other real estate professionals) and appraisal districts have access to the information for market evaluation purposes. Much of the information in the MLS, such as square footage, assessed value, taxes, school boundaries, and year built is obtained from different sources such as the county appraisal district, an appraiser, or builder. The broker or agent who provides information from the MLS does not verify the accuracy of the information. The buyer should independently verify the information in the MLS and not rely on the information.

**PERMITS.** Permits may be required to construct, alter, repair, or improve the property. The buyer is encouraged to contact the local government to verify that all required permits have been obtained, as this may impact future plans for the property.

**POSSESSION.** Most contracts provide that the seller will deliver possession of the property to the buyer at the time the sale *closes and funds or according to a temporary residential lease or other written lease required by the parties*. There may be a short delay between closing and actual funding; especially if the buyer is obtaining funds from a lender. The buyer may need to verify with the lender if the loan will fund on the day of closing. The buyer should also take this potential delay into account when planning the move into the property. Any possession by the buyer before the sale closes and funds (or by the seller after the sale closes and funds) must be authorized by a written lease.

**PROPERTY INSURANCE.** Promptly after entering into a contract to buy a property and before any option period expires, the buyer should contact an insurance agent to determine the availability and affordability of insurance for the property. There are numerous variables that an insurance company will evaluate when offering insurance at certain coverage levels and at certain prices. Most lenders require that the property be insured in an amount not less than the loan amount. The failure to obtain property insurance before closing may delay the transaction or cause it to end. Texas REALTORS® publishes a document titled, "Information about Property Insurance for a Buyer or Seller" (TXR 2508), which discusses property insurance in more detail.

**RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CONTRACTS.** A residential service contract is a product under which a residential service company, for an annual fee, agrees to repair or replace certain equipment or items in a property (for example, covered appliances, air conditioning and heating systems, and plumbing systems). Co-payments typically apply to most service calls. If the buyer requests names of residential service companies from an agent, the buyer should note that the agent is not making any representation or warranty about the service company.

**RESTRICTIONS ON PROPERTY NEAR AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER.** Be aware that in certain counties located near an international border, Texas law may prohibit the sale of property lacking required water and sewer services. Even if a sale of such property is permitted, a buyer may face additional costs or restrictions under Texas law due to a lack of basic infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, and drainage). Texas REALTORS® publishes a form titled, "Information Regarding Property Near an International Border" (TXR 2519), which provides more information. Brokers and agents cannot guarantee that a sale of the property is permitted under Texas law or otherwise give legal advice. Consult an attorney.

**SCHOOL BOUNDARIES.** School boundaries may change and are, at times, difficult to determine. The school boundaries that an agent may provide or that may be provided through a Multiple Listing Service are only mapped estimates from other sources. The buyer is encouraged to verify with the school district which schools residents in the property will attend.

**SEPTIC TANKS AND ON-SITE SEWER FACILITIES.** Many properties have septic tanks or other on-site sewer facilities. There are several types of such systems. Special maintenance requirements may apply to certain systems. Please refer to a document titled, "Information about On-Site Sewer Facility" (TXR 1407) for

more information. The buyer should also determine if the county requires any registration or other action to begin using the septic system or on-site sewer facility.

**SEX OFFENDERS AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.** Neither a seller nor a seller's agent of a residential property has a duty to disclose any information about registered sex offenders. If the buyer is concerned about sex offenders who may reside in the area, access [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us). Contact the local police department to obtain information about any criminal activity in the area.

**SQUARE FOOTAGE.** If the purchase price is based on the size of the property's building and structures, the buyer should have any information the buyer receives about the square footage independently verified. Square footage information comes from other sources such as appraisal districts, appraisers, and builders. Such information is only an estimate. The actual square footage may vary.

**STATUTORY TAX DISTRICTS.** The property may be located in a utility or other statutorily created district providing water, sewer, drainage, or flood control facilities and services (for example a Municipal Utility District, Water Improvement District, or a Public Improvement District). The buyer is likely to receive a prescribed notice when buying property in such a district.

**SURVEILLANCE.** Be aware that when viewing a property, a seller might record or otherwise electronically monitor a buyer without the buyer's knowledge or consent, and a buyer might photograph or otherwise record the property without the seller's knowledge or consent. The parties should consult an attorney before recording or photographing another person or property.

**SURVEY.** A survey identifies the location of boundaries, major improvements, fence lines, drives, encroachments, easements, and other items on the property. The buyer should obtain a survey early enough in the transaction to help the buyer identify any encroachments, encumbrances to title, or restrictions. The contract will typically contain a provision which identifies who is responsible for providing a survey and the right to object to encumbrances to title disclosed in the survey.

**SYNTHETIC STUCCO.** Synthetic stucco (sometimes known as EIFS) is an exterior siding product that was placed on some properties in the recent past. If the product was not properly installed, it has been known to cause damage to the structure (such as wood rot and moisture). If the property has synthetic stucco, the buyer should ask an inspector to carefully inspect the siding and answer any questions.

**TAX PRORATIONS.** Typically, a buyer and seller agree to prorate a property's taxes through the closing date. Property taxes are due and payable at the end of each calendar year. The escrow agent will estimate, at closing, the taxes for the current year. If the seller is qualified for tax exemptions (for example, homestead, agricultural, or over-65 exemption), such exemptions may or may not apply after closing. After closing the taxes may increase because the exemptions may no longer apply. When buying new construction, the taxes at closing may be prorated based on the land value only and will later increase when the appraisal district includes the value of the new improvements. The actual taxes due, therefore, at the end of the year and in subsequent years may be different from the estimates used at closing.

**TERMINATION OPTION.** Most contract forms contain an option clause which provides the buyer with an unrestricted right to terminate the contract. Most buyers choose to buy the termination option. The buyer will be required to pay for the termination option in advance. The option fee is negotiable. Most buyers will conduct many of their reviews, inspections, and other due diligence during the option period. The buyer must strictly comply with the time period under the option. The option period is not suspended or extended if the buyer and the seller negotiate repairs or an amendment. If the buyer wants to extend the option period, the buyer must negotiate an extension separately, obtain the extension in writing, and pay an additional fee for the extension. The buyer should not rely on any oral extensions.

**TIDE WATERS.** If the property adjoins any of the state's tidal waters, the seller will provide the buyer with a prescribed notice titled, "Addendum for Coastal Area Notice" (TXR 1915). Boundaries of properties along such waters may change and building restrictions will apply. If the property is located seaward of the Gulf



Intracoastal Waterway, the seller will provide the buyer with a prescribed notice titled, "Addendum for Property Located Seaward of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway" (TXR 1916).

**TITLE INSURANCE OR ABSTRACT OF TITLE.** The buyer should obtain a title insurance policy or have an abstract of title covering the property examined by an attorney. If the buyer obtains a title insurance policy, the buyer should have the commitment of title insurance reviewed by an attorney not later than the time required under the contract.

**UTILITIES.** The buyer should evaluate what utilities the buyer will require and check to be sure that the utilities available in the area suit the buyer's needs. Some structures may or may not have utilities and electrical facilities to support many modern appliances or equipment.

**WATER LEVEL FLUCTUATIONS.** State law requires the seller to notify a buyer of a property that adjoins a lake, reservoir, or other impoundment of water with a storage capacity of at least 5,000 acre-feet at its normal operating level that the water level may fluctuate. The buyer and seller can find a list of lakes and reservoirs with at least 5,000 acre-feet storage capacity by accessing <http://texasalmanac.com/topics/environment/lakes-and-reservoirs>.

**WATER WELLS.** If the property has a water well, the buyer should have, and the lender may require, the equipment inspected and water tested. The buyer should also determine if the county requires any registration or other action to begin using the water well.

**WIRE FRAUD.** Criminals are targeting real estate transactions by gaining access to electronic communications or sending emails that appear to be from a real estate agent, a title company, lender, or another trusted source. Refrain from transmitting personal information, such as bank account numbers or other financial information, via unsecured email or other electronic communication. If the buyer receives any electronic communication regarding wiring instructions, even if the communication appears to come from a legitimate source, the buyer should verify its authenticity prior to the transfer of funds in person or via phone call using a recognized phone number that is not found in the communication.

**OTHER.**

This form was provided by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Broker's Printed Name

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Broker's Associate's Signature Date

By signing below I acknowledge that I received, read, and understand this information and notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer/Seller Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer/Seller Date



# INFORMATION ABOUT ON-SITE SEWER FACILITY

USE OF THIS FORM BY PERSONS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, INC. IS NOT AUTHORIZED.  
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## CONCERNING THE PROPERTY AT

### A. DESCRIPTION OF ON-SITE SEWER FACILITY ON PROPERTY:

- (1) Type of Treatment System:  Septic Tank  Aerobic Treatment  Unknown  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Type of Distribution System: \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown
- (3) Approximate Location of Drain Field or Distribution System: \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Installer: \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown
- (5) Approximate Age: \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown

### B. MAINTENANCE INFORMATION:

- (1) Is Seller aware of any maintenance contract in effect for the on-site sewer facility?  Yes  No  
If yes, name of maintenance contractor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ contract expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Maintenance contracts must be in effect to operate aerobic treatment and certain non-standard on-site sewer facilities.)*
- (2) Approximate date any tanks were last pumped? \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Is Seller aware of any defect or malfunction in the on-site sewer facility?  Yes  No  
If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Does Seller have manufacturer or warranty information available for review?  Yes  No

### C. PLANNING MATERIALS, PERMITS, AND CONTRACTS:

- (1) The following items concerning the on-site sewer facility are attached:  
 planning materials  permit for original installation  final inspection when OSSF was installed  
 maintenance contract  manufacturer information  warranty information  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (2) "Planning materials" are the supporting materials that describe the on-site sewer facility that are submitted to the permitting authority in order to obtain a permit to install the on-site sewer facility.
- (3) **It may be necessary for a buyer to have the permit to operate an on-site sewer facility transferred to the buyer.**





## INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

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### CONCERNING THE PROPERTY AT \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. FLOOD AREAS:

- (1) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates areas that have a high risk of flooding as special flood hazard areas.
- (2) A property that is in a special flood hazard area lies in a “V-Zone” or “A-Zone” as noted on flood insurance rate maps. Both V-Zone and A-Zone areas are areas with high risk of flooding.
- (3) Some properties may also lie in the “floodway” which is the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge a flood under FEMA rules. Communities must regulate development in these floodways.

#### B. AVAILABILITY OF FLOOD INSURANCE:

- (1) Generally, flood insurance is available regardless of whether the property is located in or out of a special flood hazard area. Contact your insurance agent to determine if any limitations or restrictions apply to the property in which you are interested.
- (2) FEMA encourages every property owner to purchase flood insurance regardless of whether the property is in a high, moderate, or low risk flood area.
- (3) A homeowner may obtain flood insurance coverage (up to certain limits) through the National Flood Insurance Program. Supplemental coverage is available through private insurance carriers.
- (4) A mortgage lender making a federally related mortgage will require the borrower to maintain flood insurance if the property is in a special flood hazard area.

#### C. GROUND FLOOR REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Many homes in special flood hazard areas are built-up or are elevated. In elevated homes the ground floor typically lies below the base flood elevation and the first floor is elevated on piers, columns, posts, or piles. The base flood elevation is the highest level at which a flood is likely to occur as shown on flood insurance rate maps.
- (2) Federal, state, county, and city regulations:
  - (a) restrict the use and construction of any ground floor enclosures in elevated homes that are in special flood hazard areas.
  - (b) may prohibit or restrict the remodeling, rebuilding, and redevelopment of property and improvements in the floodway.
- (3) The first floor of all homes must now be built above the base flood elevation.
  - (a) Older homes may have been built in compliance with applicable regulations at the time of construction and may have first floors that lie below the base flood elevation, but flood insurance rates for such homes may be significant.

- (b) It is possible that modifications were made to a ground floor enclosure after a home was first built. The modifications may or may not comply with applicable regulations and may or may not affect flood insurance rates.
  - (c) It is important for a buyer to determine if the first floor of a home is elevated at or above the base flood elevation. It is also important for a buyer to determine if the property lies in a floodway.
- (4) Ground floor enclosures that lie below the base flood elevation may be used only for: (i) parking; (ii) storage; and (iii) building access. Plumbing, mechanical, or electrical items in ground floor enclosures that lie below the base flood elevation may be prohibited or restricted and may not be eligible for flood insurance coverage. Additionally:
- (a) in A-Zones, the ground floor enclosures below the base flood elevation must have flow-through vents or openings that permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters;
  - (b) in V-Zones, the ground floor enclosures must have break-away walls, screening, or lattice walls; and
  - (c) in floodways, the remodeling or reconstruction of any improvements may be prohibited or otherwise restricted.

**D. COMPLIANCE:**

- (1) The above-referenced property may or may not comply with regulations affecting ground floor enclosures below the base flood elevation.
- (2) A property owner's eligibility to purchase or maintain flood insurance, as well as the cost of the flood insurance, is dependent on whether the property complies with the regulations affecting ground floor enclosures.
- (3) A purchaser or property owner may be required to remove or modify a ground floor enclosure that is not in compliance with city or county building requirements or is not entitled to an exemption from such requirements.
- (4) A flood insurance policy maintained by the current property owner does not mean that the property is in compliance with the regulations affecting ground floor enclosures or that the buyer will be able to continue to maintain flood insurance at the same rate.
- (5) Insurance carriers calculate the cost of flood insurance using a rate that is based on the elevation of the lowest floor.
  - (a) If the ground floor lies below the base flood elevation and does not meet federal, state, county, and city requirements, the ground floor will be the lowest floor for the purpose of computing the rate.
  - (b) If the property is in compliance, the first elevated floor will be the lowest floor and the insurance rate will be significantly less than the rate for a property that is not in compliance.
  - (c) If the property lies in a V-Zone the flood insurance rate will be impacted if a ground floor enclosure below the base flood elevation exceeds 299 square feet (even if constructed with break-away walls).

Information about Special Flood Hazard Areas concerning \_\_\_\_\_

**E. ELEVATION CERTIFICATE:**

The elevation certificate is an important tool in determining flood insurance rates. It is used to provide elevation information that is necessary to ensure compliance with floodplain management laws. To determine the proper insurance premium rate, insurers rely on an elevation certificate to certify building elevations at an acceptable level above flood map levels. If available in your area, it is recommended that you obtain an elevation certificate for the property as soon as possible to accurately determine future flood insurance rates.

**You are encouraged to: (1) inspect the property for all purposes, including compliance with any ground floor enclosure requirement; (2) review the flood insurance policy (costs and coverage) with your insurance agent; and (3) contact the building permitting authority if you have any questions about building requirements or compliance issues.**

Receipt acknowledged by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date



# SELLER'S AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE AND ADVERTISE CERTAIN INFORMATION

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TO: \_\_\_\_\_ (Broker)  
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (Seller)  
RE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Property)  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Seller has placed the Property on the market because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Seller authorizes Broker, at Broker's discretion, to : (1) inform prospective buyers and other brokers of this information; and (2) advertise this information.

B. Seller authorizes Broker, at Broker's discretion, to include the following information or phrases in advertisements concerning the Property (for example, "seller is negotiable," "bring all offers," incentives offered, conditions for sale) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seller





(Address of Property)

- 15. INDEMNITY:** Tenant indemnifies Landlord from the claims of all third parties for injury or damage to the person or property of such third party arising from the use or occupancy of the Property by Tenant. This indemnification includes attorney's fees, costs and expenses incurred by Landlord.
- 16. INSURANCE:** Landlord and Tenant shall each maintain such insurance on the contents and Property as each party may deem appropriate during the term of this Lease. NOTE: CONSULT YOUR INSURANCE AGENT; POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY BY BUYER AS TENANT MAY CHANGE INSURANCE POLICY COVERAGE.
- 17. DEFAULT:** If Tenant fails to perform or observe any provision of this Lease and fails, within 24 hours after notice by Landlord, to commence and diligently pursue to remedy such failure, Tenant will be in default.
- 18. TERMINATION:** This Lease terminates upon (a) closing and funding of the sale under the Contract, (b) termination of the Contract prior to closing, (c) Tenant's default under this Lease, or (d) Tenant's default under the Contract, whichever occurs first. Upon termination other than by closing and funding of the sale, Tenant shall surrender possession of the property.
- 19. HOLDING OVER:** Any possession by Tenant after termination creates a tenancy at sufferance and will not operate to renew or extend this Lease. Tenant shall pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per day during the period of a possession after termination as damages, in addition to any other remedies to which Landlord is entitled.
- 20. ATTORNEY'S FEES:** The prevailing party in any legal proceeding brought under or with respect to this Lease is entitled to recover from the non-prevailing party all costs of such proceeding and reasonable attorney's fees.
- 21. SMOKE ALARMS:** The Texas Property Code requires Landlord to install smoke alarms in certain locations within the Property at Landlord's expense. Tenant expressly waives Landlord's duty to inspect and repair smoke alarms.
- 22. SECURITY DEVICES:** The requirements of the Texas Property Code relating to security devices do not apply to a residential lease for a term of 90 days or less.
- 23. CONSULT YOUR ATTORNEY:** Real estate licensees cannot give legal advice. This Lease is intended to be legally binding. READ IT CAREFULLY. If you do not understand the effect of this Lease, consult your attorney BEFORE signing.
- 24. NOTICES:** All notices from one party to the other must be in writing and are effective when mailed to, hand-delivered at, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic transmission as follows:

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landlord

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant

The form of this contract has been approved by the Texas Real Estate Commission. TREC forms are intended for use only by trained real estate licensees. No representation is made as to the legal validity or adequacy of any provision in any specific transactions. It is not intended for complex transactions. Texas Real Estate Commission, P.O. Box 12188, Austin, TX 78711-2188, 512-936-3000 (<http://www.trec.texas.gov>) TREC NO. 16-5. This form replaces TREC NO. 16-4.



# NOTICES REGARDING CONTINGENCY UNDER ADDENDUM FOR SALE OF OTHER PROPERTY BY BUYER

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Seller: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Buyer: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Re: The contract concerning the Property at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### A. Seller's Notice to Buyer to Remove Contingency:

- (1) Seller has accepted another written offer to purchase the Property.
- (2) Buyer may waive the contingency by notifying Seller in writing of the waiver and depositing any required additional earnest money with the escrow agent within the time required under the Addendum for Sale of Other Property by Buyer.
- (3) If Buyer does not waive the contingency and deposit the additional earnest money within the time required, the contract will terminate and the earnest money will be refunded to Buyer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seller Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seller Date

### B. Buyer's Response to Seller's Notice to Remove Contingency:

- (1) Buyer waives the contingency and deposits the additional earnest money with the escrow agent.
- (2) Buyer does not waive the contingency. The contract is terminated and the earnest money will be refunded to Buyer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer Date



## NOTICE OF INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES

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

From: \_\_\_\_\_ (Broker)

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(1) Broker obtained the attached information, identified as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
,  
from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
,

(2) Broker has relied on the attached information and does not know and has no reason to know that the information is false or inaccurate except: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**(3) Broker does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of the attached information. Do not rely on the attached information without verifying its accuracy.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Broker

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt of this notice is acknowledged by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date



## TEXAS REAL ESTATE CONSUMER NOTICE CONCERNING HAZARDS OR DEFICIENCIES

Each year, Texans sustain property damage and are injured by accidents in the home. While some accidents may not be avoidable, many other accidents, injuries, and deaths may be avoided through the identification and repair of certain hazardous conditions. Examples of such hazards include:

- malfunctioning, improperly installed, or missing ground fault circuit protection (GFCI) devices for electrical receptacles in garages, bathrooms, kitchens, and exterior areas;
- malfunctioning arc fault protection (AFCI) devices;
- ordinary glass in locations where modern construction techniques call for safety glass;
- malfunctioning or lack of fire safety features, such as smoke alarms, fire-rated doors in certain locations, and functional emergency escape and rescue openings in bedrooms;
- malfunctioning carbon monoxide alarms;
- excessive spacing between balusters on stairways and porches;
- improperly installed appliances;
- improperly installed or defective safety devices;
- lack of electrical bonding and grounding; and
- lack of bonding on gas piping, including corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST).

To ensure that consumers are informed of hazards such as these, the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) has adopted Standards of Practice requiring licensed inspectors to report these conditions as "Deficient" when performing an inspection for a buyer or seller, if they can be reasonably determined.

These conditions may not have violated building codes or common practices at the time of the construction of the home, or they may have been "grandfathered" because they were present prior to the adoption of codes prohibiting such conditions. While the TREC Standards of Practice do not require inspectors to perform a code compliance inspection, TREC considers the potential for injury or property loss from the hazards addressed in the Standards of Practice to be significant enough to warrant this notice.

Contract forms developed by TREC for use by its real estate license holders also inform the buyer of the right to have the home inspected and can provide an option clause permitting the buyer to terminate the contract within a specified time. Neither the Standards of Practice nor the TREC contract forms requires a seller to remedy conditions revealed by an inspection. The decision to correct a hazard or any deficiency identified in an inspection report is left to the parties to the contract for the sale or purchase of the home.

This form has been approved by the Texas Real Estate Commission for voluntary use by its license holders. Copies of TREC rules governing real estate brokers, salesperson and real estate inspectors are available from TREC. Texas Real Estate Commission, P.O. Box 12188, Austin, TX 78711-2188, 512-936-3000 (<http://www.trec.texas.gov>)

TREC Form No. OP-I  
TXR 2504

**NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE BUYER**

As required by law, I advise you to have the abstract covering the property known as

\_\_\_\_\_ (Address) examined by an attorney of your own selection OR you should be furnished with or obtain a policy of title insurance.

If the property is situated in a Utility District, Chapter 49 of the Texas Water Code requires you to sign and acknowledge the statutory notice from the seller of the property relating to the tax rate, bonded indebtedness or standby fee of the District.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brokerage Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Broker or Sales Associate

I have received a copy of this **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE BUYER.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prospective Buyer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prospective Buyer

This form has been approved by the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) for use when a contract of sale has not been promulgated by TREC. The form should be presented before an offer to purchase is signed by the prospective buyer. Texas real Estate Commission, P.O. Box 12188, Austin, Texas 78711-2188, 512-936-3000 (<http://www.trec.texas.gov>). TREC Notice to Prospective Buyer. OP-C replaces MA-C.



## INFORMATION ABOUT PROPERTY INSURANCE FOR A BUYER OR SELLER

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### A. The availability and the affordability of property insurance may affect both the buyer and the seller.

Typically a buyer will seek to insure the property. Most mortgage lenders require that the property be insured in an amount not less than the loan amount. The failure to obtain property insurance at or before closing may delay the transaction or cause it to end, either of which can impose both inconvenience and cost to both the buyer and the seller.

### B. There are a number of factors that affect the availability and affordability of insurance.

- (1) The level of coverage will significantly affect the cost of insurance. There are several levels of insurance coverage. For example:
  - (a) a policy may cover the replacement cost of the improvements and the replacement cost of many personal items in the property in the event of most casualties;
  - (b) a policy may cover only value of the improvements and exclude many casualties; or
  - (c) a policy may cover casualties and costs between the two noted extremes under (a) and (b).
- (2) Coverage levels and prices vary from company to company. There are many insurance companies conducting business in Texas who offer a variety of insurance products at various prices.
  - (a) One insurance company may refuse to insure a particular property or person while another insurance company may elect to do so.
  - (b) One insurance company may charge a significantly lower premium than another insurance company for the same or similar coverage.
  - (c) Generally, each insurance company has specific guidelines by which it prices its insurance policies. The following are examples of criteria that an insurance company may use in evaluating an application for insurance. The criteria vary from company to company.
    - (1) Past claims filed against the property to be insured in the 5 years preceding the application.
    - (2) Past claims filed by the applicant to be insured in the 5 years preceding the application.
    - (3) The applicant's insurance credit score.
    - (4) The past relationship between the insurance company and the applicant.
    - (5) The physical characteristics of the property such as condition, age, location, or construction materials.

### C. Most insurance companies participate in the Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange (CLUE) and obtain a CLUE report to evaluate the claims history of the property and the applicant.

- (1) Most insurance companies contribute information about claims to an insurance industry database known as CLUE (a registered trademark of Equifax, Inc.). An insurance company obtains a CLUE report when evaluating an application for insurance.
- (2) A CLUE report contains information about the claims history of the property and of the applicant for insurance.
  - (a) The CLUE report contains only data and does not inform the buyer or seller whether insurance is or is not available or at what cost.
  - (b) Insurance companies use the CLUE report in different ways.
  - (c) It is best to speak with an insurance agent with respect to how the information in a particular CLUE report affects the affordability and availability of insurance.

Information about Property Insurance for a Buyer or Seller

- (3) While CLUE reports are generally accurate, there may be errors in the reports.
  - (a) An event may be listed as a claim even though the insurance company did not pay any proceeds (for example, the cost of repair did not exceed the deductible or an inquiry may be incorrectly classified as a claim).
  - (b) Federal law permits a person to challenge inaccurate information. One may contact the administrator of the CLUE report (Lexis-Nexis) to correct information in a CLUE report.
- (4) A property owner may, for a fee, obtain the CLUE report on his or her property through companies such as Lexis-Nexis (<https://personalreports.lexisnexis.com>, 1-866-312-9076), A-Plus (800-709-8842) or other companies, most of whose services are accessible via the Internet. An owner may also contact the Equifax Insurance Consumer Center at 800-456-6004.

**D. Promptly after entering into a contract to buy a property in Texas, the buyer should take the following steps to avoid delays in closing and to avoid additional costs.**

**If the buyer has the option to terminate the contract, the buyer should make sure that the buyer and the insurance agent have completed the following steps before the option expires.**

- (1) Contact one or more insurance agents.
  - (a) The buyer should discuss the various levels of coverage with an insurance agent and ask questions that are necessary so the buyer understands the levels of available coverage.
  - (b) Insurance agents can provide applicants with written summaries of the various coverage levels.
  - (c) Basic summaries are available at the websites noted in Paragraph E.
- (2) **Submit an application** for insurance with the insurance agent of the buyer's choice.
  - (a) Applying for insurance promptly after entering into a contract to buy a property helps avoid surprises or delays in closing the transaction.
  - (b) Prompt application permits the buyer time to evaluate various coverage levels and prices.
  - (c) Delaying the application for insurance may limit opportunities to obtain the most suitable coverage and may limit opportunities to address any unforeseen problems or delays in obtaining coverage.
  - (d) In recent years, many transactions have been delayed or terminated because of problems associated with obtaining insurance.
- (3) Ask for written confirmation from the insurance agent that the insurance company:
  - (a) has received the application;
  - (b) has reviewed the applicant's CLUE report; and
  - (c) has conducted all necessary reviews to issue a policy at the particular price quoted (some insurance companies may ask for specific information or may wish to inspect the property).
- (4) Verify that the insurance coverage the buyer chooses is acceptable to the buyer's lender.

**E. If one is not able to obtain insurance at a reasonable price or more information is needed, contact the Texas Department of Insurance ([www.helpinsure.com](http://www.helpinsure.com) or [www.tdi.state.tx.us](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us)).**

Receipt acknowledged by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM MOLD

## JUNE 2002

Mold growth problems can adversely affect many homeowners in Texas. Homeowners who act quickly and appropriately can prevent or correct conditions that may cause mold growth. The Texas Department of Health (TDH) and Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) prepared this publication to help you understand the concerns related to mold growth and to provide some effective steps you can take to help prevent mold growth. The following information will help protect your investment in your home and may prevent the possibility of health risks due to mold exposure.

*If you are a renter, you should contact your landlord or property manager immediately when you have a maintenance need related to water damage.*

### WHAT ARE MOLDS?

Molds are microscopic organisms commonly found both indoors and outdoors. Molds, along with mushrooms and yeast, are known scientifically as fungi. Their purpose in nature is to break down dead material and recycle nutrients in the environment. For molds to grow and reproduce, they need a food source -any organic material, such as leaves, wood, paper, or dirt -and moisture. Since molds grow by "eating" the organic material, they gradually destroy whatever they are feeding on. Mold growth on surfaces can often be seen as a colored spot, frequently green, gray, brown, black or white. It commonly appears as a powdery, fuzzy, or hair-like material. Actively growing molds typically produce odors, sometimes described as earthy or moldy, or like mildew, old dirty socks, or ammonia. Molds release thousands of microscopic spores, which are lightweight, easily airborne and carried by air currents to surrounding areas. The spores must have both food and moisture to actually start growing, similar to plant seeds.

### WHAT DO I DO IF A LEAK OCCURS?

Whether or not the water damage may be covered by your insurance policy, it is important to act quickly to prevent further damage to your home.

- Immediately stop the source of leak or flooding.
- Remove excess water with mops or a wet vacuum. If the damage is significant, consider contacting a water extraction company for immediate action.
- Whenever possible, move wet items to a secure, dry and well-ventilated area or outside to expedite drying.
- Protect repairable and undamaged items from further damage.
- Move rugs and pull up areas of wet carpet as soon as possible.
- Increase circulation in and around wet areas by opening closet and cabinet doors, moving furniture away from walls and running fans.
- If necessary, remove wallboard and flooring materials to dry out those areas.
- Don't throw away removed or damaged materials until instructed by your insurance company.
- Dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24- 48 hours.
- Keep all receipts, photos and other relevant documents.
- Contact your insurance company, if applicable.

**NOTE:** The sooner the affected areas dry out and the source of the leak is repaired, the better your chances of minimizing damage to your property. If the water cannot be removed and the area dried promptly and efficiently, consider contacting a water extraction company for immediate action.

### RESOURCES

For additional information, consult the mold and/or indoor air quality resources at the following:

**Texas Department of Health**  
[www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/iaq/](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/iaq/)  
1-800-572-5548

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
[www.epa.gov/iaq/](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/)  
1-800-438-4318

**Texas Department of Insurance**  
[www.tdi.state.tx.us/commish/mold.html](http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/commish/mold.html)  
1-800-252-3439

### WHY ARE MOLDS A CONCERN?

#### Damage to the Home

It is common to find mold spores in the air inside homes, and on most surfaces including clothes, walls, and furniture. Most of the time mold spores found indoors come from outdoor sources. Routine cleaning of your home and furnishings helps keep these levels low. Cleaning small areas of visible mold, such as mold that may occur around your shower, is necessary to prevent unsanitary conditions.

The level of concern greatly increases when there are large amounts of active mold growth in your home. Large-scale mold problems are most likely to occur when there has been an on-going water leak, a flood, or very high levels of humidity in the home. Indoor mold growth may cause very high levels of airborne mold spores, which, in turn, may cause the spread of mold growth from the original source to other areas of the home where high moisture levels exist. Extensive mold growth can damage your home and belongings, such as carpets, sofas and cabinets. In time, unchecked mold growth can cause damage to the structural elements in your home. While there is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment, keeping your home clean and dry can prevent extensive mold growth and its related damage.

#### Health Effects

The vast majority of people are exposed to small amounts of mold or their spores on a daily basis without evident harm. However, mold growing inside a home is an unsanitary condition that may present potential health risks to occupants. Therefore, it is always best to identify and correct high moisture conditions quickly before mold grows and possible health problems develop.

Potential health effects produced by molds may include allergic, irritating, or toxigenic effects, and rarely, infection. Allergic reactions are generally the most common health effect. Typical symptoms (alone or in combination) reported by people living in moldy homes include:

- respiratory problems, such as wheezing, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath
- sneezing and/or nasal congestion
- eye irritation (itching, burning, watery, or reddened eyes)
- coughing or throat irritation
- skin rashes or irritation
- headaches
- fatigue

The potential health effects depend on the amounts and types of mold present, the length and frequency of exposure, and the sensitivity and health condition of exposed individuals. While many people seldom experience ill effects from mold exposures, some may develop very serious illnesses. Some persons exposed to mold or mold spores may become sensitized and develop allergies to the mold or other health problems. Even "dead" mold (including spores and pieces of mold) may still cause allergy, irritation, or toxigenic reactions. Thus, killing mold without removing the residue may still be a health concern. Complete removal and thorough cleanup of mold is the safest solution.

Individuals at greater risk who may experience more severe symptoms or become ill more rapidly than others include:

- individuals with existing respiratory conditions, such as allergies, asthma, or chemical sensitivities
- individuals with weakened immune systems due to conditions such as HIV infection or cancer treatment
- infants and young children
- the elderly

*Anyone with a health problem they believe may be due to mold exposure should consult a medical professional.*



Since you cannot remove all food sources for molds, it is important as a homeowner to take sensible precautions to prevent moisture from creating a breeding ground for mold.

### MOISTURE CONTROL

- Maintain levels of humidity below 60% (preferably between 30% and 50%) by
  - venting bathrooms, dryers and other moisture-generating sources to the outside
  - avoiding blockage of air conditioning vents
  - using air conditioners and de-humidifiers
  - increasing ventilation by installing additional crawlspace and attic vents, opening windows or installing an air-to-air heat exchanger
  - using exhaust fans when cooking, dishwashing and cleaning
  - avoiding the use of unvented heaters or high heat in confined areas
  - setting the air conditioning thermostat to "auto" to prevent circulation of humid air.
- Add insulation to reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (windows, piping, exterior walls, roof or floors).
- Consider using moisture sensors that sound an audible alarm when a leak occurs.

### OTHER PRECAUTIONS

- **Water Valve**-Make sure everyone in the household knows where the main valve is located and how to turn the water off.
- **Rain Gutters and Downspouts**-Direct rainwater away from your home. Keep gutters clear and make sure downspouts are long enough to effectively carry water away from your foundation. Gutters that are filled with leaves and other debris allow water to back up on the roof, which can result in water damage to eaves and roofing material.
- **Insulate Pipes and Outside Faucets**-Minimize the potential for water damage from frozen, broken pipes by insulating supply lines (in attic, crawlspaces and exterior walls), protecting exposed outdoor faucets, sealing gaps in exterior walls and maintaining adequate heat in your home.
- **Sump Pump**-The sump pump is the first line of defense in preventing water seepage into basements. Periodically check the sump and remove any debris that could clog the pump. Consider installing a battery-powered backup to protect your basement during power outages.
- **Don't block weep holes**-Weep holes are openings at the foundation level of a brick wall that allow moisture to escape from behind the wall. Do not close or block these openings.
- **Monitor Utility Bills**-An abnormally high water bill could signal a water leak.
- **Before You Travel**-Turn the water off at the main valve or at major appliances. While you are away, consider leaving a house key and contact information with a neighbor or trusted friend and ask the person to check the inside and outside of your home periodically while you are away.

### PREVENTION

- Purchase paint with EPA approved mold inhibitors
- Clean bathrooms often with mold killing products and keep surfaces dry
- Do not carpet bathrooms, basements, kitchens or other areas prone to collect moisture
- Repair damages that could lead to water intrusion promptly and properly
- Ensure that the home has adequate ventilation, including exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathrooms

### INSPECTION

Inspect your home regularly for the indications and sources of indoor moisture. Establish a maintenance schedule to check the following sources of water leaks on a regular basis. Contact a maintenance or service company with any questions or concerns.

- **Hot Water Heaters**- Over time, these appliances may rust or develop cracks, and the resulting leaks can be very costly. Check your water heater for rust and deterioration every year. Check the drain pan for water and ensure that the drain line for the overflow pan is not clogged. Drain and clean the water heater as recommended by the manufacturer.
- **A/C Drain Lines**-Damage can occur when the line that drains condensation from the evaporator coils becomes clogged and water overflows from the drip pan. To prevent this, periodically check the drip pan for water and consider an annual inspection or service call to reduce the buildup of algae and mold in the drain line.
- **Appliance Hoses**-Broken hoses are among the most common causes of water damage. Regularly inspect hoses and hose fittings on washing machines, icemakers and dishwashers for kinks, cracks, bulges or evidence of deterioration. Replace standard rubber washing machine hoses every two to five years, or more frequently if they are showing signs of water. Consider using steel-reinforced hoses for longer life.
- **Showers, Tubs, Sinks and Toilets**-Water that leaks from around bathtubs, showers, sinks and toilets can cause extensive damage because the leak is often hidden from view. To prevent leaks, make sure you have a continuous watertight seal of caulk around the edges of sinks, toilets, tubs and shower stalls. Cracks or mold on the caulk or on the grout at tiles on walls or shower floors may indicate that you do not have a watertight seal. Remove all caulk or grout, clean and dry the surface thoroughly, and apply fresh caulk. Do not apply new caulk or grout on top of the old materials.
- **Visible Piping**-Routinely check piping under cabinets and sinks for leaks, rust and evidence of deterioration.
- **Waste/Garbage Disposal System**-Routinely check for cracking or other sources of leaks in the waste disposal system.
- **Caulking around Windows, Doors, Penetrations and Cracks**-Windows and doors should have a continuous bead of caulk sealing them to the exterior surface of the home. Penetrations of the exterior walls by pipes, electrical conduit, phone or cable lines, and exhaust ducts should also be caulked. Cracks or mold on the caulk may indicate that you do not have a watertight seal. Remove all caulk, clean and dry the surface thoroughly, and apply fresh caulk. Do not apply new caulk on top of the old caulk.
- **Attic and Ceilings**-Routinely check for wet insulation and water stains.
- **Wallpaper**-Routinely check for bubbling and/or peeling, as well as pink or black stains.
- **Roofs**-Keep roofs free of debris that can damage roofing material and allow water to seep in. Trim tree branches to prevent them from rubbing and damaging the roof. Promptly repair missing or damaged shingles. Properly seal any cracks around chimneys, skylights and vents. Check metal flashing for holes, cracks or other damage. Replace flashing or use silicon caulk to seal any openings.
- **Landscape**-Yards should slope away from the house to prevent puddling near the foundation or under pier and beam houses.
- **Sprinklers and Irrigation System**-Do not allow sprinklers or sprinkler heads to soak the exterior of the home.
- **Check for evidence of water stains or odors, particularly after rains, on areas that could get wet.**

### POTENTIAL SIGNS OF MOLD GROWTH

- Unexplained discoloration on any surface
- Musty odor
- Dark spots on or around vents
- Water stains anywhere
- Peeling or curling of vinyl floors or wallpaper



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# Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home

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September 2013

TXR-2511

# 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 lead-based 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](http://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 avoid fatty (or high fat) foods and eat nutritious meals high in iron and calcium.
- 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.

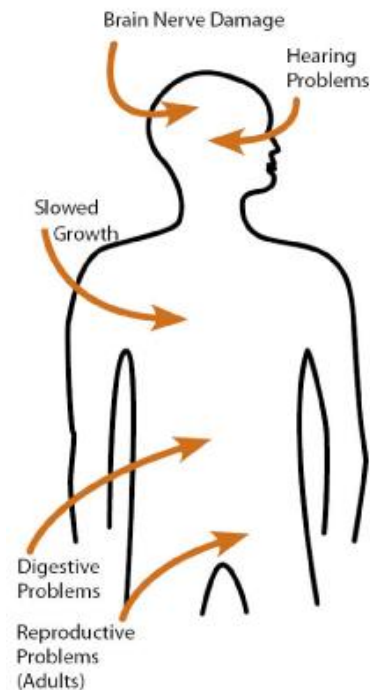
# Health Effects of Lead

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**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](http://epa.gov/lead).

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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.



# 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:

- 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](http://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 avoid fatty (or high fat) foods and eat nutritious meals high in iron and calcium. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

# Reducing Lead Hazards

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**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](http://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 lead-contaminated 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](http://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](http://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.
- Folk remedies, such as “**greta**” and “**azarcon**,” used to treat an upset stomach.

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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).



## 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 toll-free 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 or 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/

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

EPA-747-K-12-001  
September 2013

# 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).



## WIRE FRAUD WARNING

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### Buyers and Sellers Beware: Criminals are targeting real estate transactions. Don't be a victim of wire fraud.

**What is wire fraud and how does it occur?** Criminals are targeting real estate transactions by gaining access to electronic communications or sending emails that appear to be from a real estate agent, a title company, a lender, or another trusted source. These fraudulent emails seem legitimate and direct you to wire funds to a fraudulent account. Once you wire funds to the fraudulent account, your money is gone.

**How can you protect yourself from wire fraud?** You should not send personal information, such as bank account numbers or other financial information, via email or other unsecured electronic communication.

If you receive any electronic communication regarding wiring instructions, even if the communication appears to come from a legitimate source, you should verify the communication's authenticity prior to the transfer of funds in person or via phone call using a recognized phone number that is not found in the communication.

**Notice: This brokerage will never use any electronic communications, such as email, text messages, or social media messages, to ask you to wire funds or provide personal information.**

**If you think you are being targeted in a wire fraud scam, immediately notify law enforcement, your lender, the title company, and your agent.**

This form was provided by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Broker's Printed Name

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Broker's Associate's Signature Date

By signing below I acknowledge that I received, read, and understand this information and notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Seller  Buyer Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Seller  Buyer Date



## INFORMATION REGARDING WINDSTORM AND HAIL INSURANCE FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES

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### A. GENERAL NOTICE:

- (1) In some areas of the state, windstorm and hail insurance is not reasonably available to a substantial number of the owners of insurable property located in that area because of unusually frequent and severe damage resulting from windstorms and hailstorms.
- (2) **A property located in such an area may be subject to additional requirements to obtain or continue windstorm and hail insurance coverage.**
- (3) Coastal counties in which this could occur include: Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Galveston, Jefferson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Matagorda, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, and Willacy; and second tier coastal counties: Bee, Brooks, Fort Bend, Goliad, Hardin, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Wells, Liberty, Live Oak, Orange, Victoria, and Wharton.

**B. LENDER REQUIREMENTS:** Lenders who make loans on properties located in such an area typically require the owner to maintain windstorm and hail insurance. A buyer should contact their lender regarding specific insurance requirements for a property. The failure to obtain required insurance at or before closing may delay the transaction or result in termination of the contract, either of which can impose both inconvenience and cost to the buyer and seller.

**C. TEXAS WINDSTORM INSURANCE ASSOCIATION:** If a buyer is unable to obtain windstorm and hail insurance through the private insurance market, the property may qualify for insurance coverage through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. A certificate of compliance issued by the Texas Department of Insurance or the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association may be required for buildings constructed, altered, remodeled, enlarged, repaired, or added to on or after January 1, 1988.

**D. RESOURCES:** For more information, contact the Texas Department of Insurance or the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. A map of current areas, designated by the Texas Department of Insurance, is available on their website: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wind/maps/index.html>.

The undersigned acknowledge receipt of this notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## INFORMATION REGARDING PROPERTY NEAR AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER

USE OF THIS FORM BY PERSONS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, INC. IS NOT AUTHORIZED.  
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- A. GENERAL NOTICE:** In certain counties located near an international border, Texas law may prohibit the sale of property lacking required water and sewer services. Even if a sale of such property is permitted, a buyer may face additional costs or restrictions under Texas law due to a lack of basic infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, and drainage).
- B. RESOURCES:** See Subchapter B, Chapter 232 of the Texas Local Government Code for more information. General information is available at: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cpd/colonias-prevention>. Additionally, the local city or county permitting authority may be able to provide more information on a specific property.
- C. CONSULT AN ATTORNEY:** Brokers and agents cannot guarantee that a sale of the property is permitted under Texas law or otherwise give legal advice. Consult an attorney regarding the implications of state and local law before executing a contract for the sale of a property near an international border.

The undersigned acknowledge receipt of this notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Information concerning the use of *COVID-19 Addendum (TXR-2520)*

**Note: Use of the *COVID-19 Addendum* is not mandatory and may not be appropriate in all circumstances.** Depending on the goals and needs of the parties, use of an existing form may be more appropriate when dealing with COVID-19-related issues. For example:

- If the parties want to negotiate an extension to the closing date to a definite date, they may use the *Amendment (TXR-1903)* form, filling in the new date in paragraph 3.
- If the parties want to negotiate an extension to the time the buyer has to obtain buyer approval under the *Third Party Financing Addendum*, they may also use the *Amendment (TXR-1903)* form, filling in the new date in paragraph 7.
- If the parties want to terminate the contract, they may use the *Release of Earnest Money (TXR-1904)* form, which releases the parties from any and all liability under the sales contract. The parties may also agree how the earnest money will be dispersed.

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing unprecedented impact and uncertainty for Texas real estate transactions. Voluntary and mandatory quarantines and the closure of government and private offices may impede the ability of parties to successfully fund and close transactions.

To address these uncertainties, Texas REALTORS® has created the *COVID-19 Addendum (TXR-2520)*. The *COVID-19 Addendum* provides for a 30-day extension of the closing date in a residential sales contract if the closing cannot occur due to a voluntary or mandatory COVID-19 quarantine or closure. If the closing cannot occur after the 30-day extension, either party may terminate the sales contract with the earnest money being returned to the buyer. The *COVID-19 Addendum* also permits either party to terminate the sales contract, with the buyer receiving the earnest money, if the buyer is unable to fund their loan beyond the time provided in the *Third Party Financing Addendum* due to loss of income from a COVID-19-related issue.

The 30-day extension under the addendum is available if the delay in closing is due to a quarantine or closure that affects the buyer, seller, or other service provider, including, but not limited to, a title company, lender, inspector, or appraiser.

The *COVID-19 Addendum* may be used as an addendum to a new contract or to amend a currently executed contract. The addendum may be used in conjunction with the following residential sales contracts:

- *One to Four Family Residential Contract (Resale) (TXR-1601)*
- *New Home Contract (Incomplete Construction) (TXR-1603)*
- *New Home Contract (Completed Construction) (TXR 1604)*
- *Residential Condominium Contract (Resale) (TXR-1605)*
- *Unimproved Property Contract (TXR-1607)*
- *New Residential Condominium Contract (Completed Construction) (TXR-1608)*
- *New Residential Condominium Contract (Incomplete Construction) (TXR-1609)*

Due to the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, buyers and sellers should be especially attentive to timelines in the contract in order to be in the best position to perform their contractual obligations or extend the deadlines as necessary.





## COVID-19 Addendum

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### TO CONTRACT CONCERNING THE PROPERTY AT

(Street Address and City)

- A. Automatic Delay:** Notwithstanding any other provisions of the contract, Seller and Buyer agree that in the event the closing as defined in Paragraph 9 of the contract is not able to be performed due to a voluntary or mandatory SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus quarantine or closure, either party may, by providing notice to the other party, extend the Closing Date for a period of thirty (30) days. If any portion of the closing is still not able to be performed upon the expiration of the extension, either party may, by providing notice to the other party, terminate the contract without any further liability to the other party, and the earnest money will be refunded to Buyer.
- B.** Seller and Buyer agree, notwithstanding that Buyer may have removed their financing contingency, that if Buyer is not able to fund their loan and close due to Buyer's loss of income from COVID-19 related issues, then either party may terminate the contract and earnest money will be refunded to the Buyer.
- C.** The parties will exercise best efforts to utilize remote services to perform obligations under the contract that otherwise cannot be performed in person due to a voluntary or mandatory COVID-19 virus quarantine or closure.

**Buyers and Sellers are advised to CONSULT AN ATTORNEY BEFORE SIGNING. Texas Real Estate Commission rules prohibit real estate license holders from giving legal advice.** This addendum is not a mandatory Texas Real Estate Commission form.

NOTE: This addendum changes the obligations of the Buyer and Seller as follows: (1) possible extension of the Closing Date in Paragraph 9 of the contract; and (2) possible termination of the contract beyond terms provided in Paragraph 2 of the Third Party Financing Addendum.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seller Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Buyer Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seller Date