

Lead-free toolkit for pre-1978 home-based child care center

If your home was built before 1978, use this toolkit to identify possible sources of lead in your home-based child care center and protect children's health.

Lead is especially harmful to children, as their growing bodies absorb more lead, and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to its effects. Babies and young children face higher exposure risks because they often put their hands or objects with lead-contaminated dust or soil in their mouths.

Children can also be exposed by consuming lead-contaminated food, water, or using dishes with lead, inhaling lead dust from old paint or soil, or playing with toys containing lead paint. **The following recommendations and steps can be taken to prevent lead poisoning in children at your home based center.**

Soil and dust

- ☐ Use a rough mat at the entrance to remove dust from shoes.
- ☐ Leave shoes at the entrance; consider a shoe-free childcare home.
- ☐ Wash hands before eating, especially after outdoor play.
- ☐ Clean floors and windows weekly with a damp mop or sponge.
- ☐ Test soil for lead at a soilSHOP event.

Paint

- ☐ Check exterior paint for chips, cracks, or peeling.
- ☐ Cover bare soil with mulch, plantings, or grass to keep paint from contaminating soil.
- ☐ Renovate safely. Use contractors certified by the EPA who use lead-safe work practices.
- ☐ Call a certified lead inspector to come check the paint in your facility.

Contact us

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Drinking water

- ☐ Visit the Department of Environmental Quality's Lead-Free Learning Initiative to get your water tested for free: **Lead Free Learning Initiative**.
- ☐ Flush lines with cold water after long periods of no use such as first thing in the morning, after work, or returning from vacation.
- ☐ Use cold water to cook and drink, especially when preparing baby formula. Boiling water will not remove lead.
- ☐ Check with your water supplier to see if they have lead pipes or services lines and if they have been partially, or fully replaced.
- ☐ Hire a licensed plumber to inspect the service line and replace all lead pipes at your facility.

Toys and other items

- ☐ Stay up to date with current recalls by visiting the **Consumer Product Safety Commission** Toys, especially antique and imported toys, are known to have a higher risk of containing lead. Other items also have a high risk of containing lead:
 - Imported candies
 - Pottery
 - Spices
 - Cosmetics
 - Traditional medicines
 - Painted furniture
 - Inexpensive children's jewelry



*This document is adapted from the National Center for Healthy Housing "Things We Do To Protect Children From Lead" check list.

Resources

APPLETREE lead page



[Link - APPLETREE lead page](#)

UT Lead Free Learning Initiative



[Link - UT Lead Free Learning Initiative](#)

Utah soilSHOP



[Link - Utah soilSHOP](#)