

Utah Choose Safe Places

Safe siting for early care and education centers

Assess environmental concerns at or around childcare centers to protect children from hazardous substances.

What is the Utah Choose Safe Places program?

Children spend large amounts of time at childcare centers. In general, children are more vulnerable to the effects of harmful substances compared to adults because their bodies are small and still growing and developing. In addition, they have more hand-to-mouth activity which increases the chance of contact with harmful substances. Therefore, to provide a safe site free from any health risk caused by environmental hazards, it is important to identify and address hazardous contaminants at or around childcare centers.

The **Utah Choose Safe Places (UT CSP) program** is a voluntary program to identify and address potential environmental concerns at or around childcare facilities to protect children and providers from harmful substances in the environment.

The UT CSP program's mission includes:

- ✓ Identify and address hazard contamination at or around childcare centers
- ✓ Help childcare centers become environmentally safe
- ✓ Help providers safely site new childcare centers

What are the key elements for safe childcare siting?

❑ Former uses of the site that might have left harmful substances

Not all past site use will present a problem for current childcare sites. Identification of those sites with a problematic past use that might produce harmful environmental exposures is critical to protect children.



Children's health

Did you know children are more sensitive to toxic chemicals compare to adults?

They are more at risk because:

- Their bodies are still growing and developing
- Their bodies can't flush out harmful chemicals as fast
- They drink more water and breathe more air
- Crawling and hand-to-mouth behavior

What are the key elements for safe childcare siting?

❑ Migration of harmful substances onto the site from nearby properties

Contamination can come from a source nearby, such as a gas station, and migrate onto the childcare site through the air, water, or soil.

❑ Presence of naturally-occurring harmful substances

Naturally-occurring contamination, such as arsenic in soil or groundwater, can be as hazardous as contamination from human activities.

❑ Access to safe drinking water

For infants, drinking water can be a large portion of their diets by volume when water is used to make infant formula.

Complete this questionnaire to help you identify and address concerns about harmful substances at or around your childcare site!

This is how it works



How to complete the questionnaire

This questionnaire collects information about how the properties at or near your childcare facilities were used in the past. The information you provide will help the Department identify whether residual chemicals may be present at your childcare property and ensure actions are taken (if needed) to make the property safe.

Please answer the questions to the best of your ability and go back in time as far as readily available information allows.

We recommend you talk with the following people to help you complete the questionnaire.

- Property owner
- Local health department. You can find your local health department information at ualhd.org
- Town planner/Town zoning office
- Town engineer/Town building department

If you have questions about completing this questionnaire, please contact the Utah Department of Health and Human Services at 801-538-6191 or APPLETREE@utah.gov. If you have questions about the childcare licensing process, please contact UT Childcare Licensing Program at childcarelicensing@utah.gov.

Application information

Facility name: _____

Address of the property: _____

Historical use of the property

Current owner of the property: _____

Building constructed in:

- Pre 1970
- 1971-1990
- 1991-2010
- 2011-present
- Not known

If the building was built before 1978, there may be lead-based paint or asbestos present. This can be a risk if the property has not been properly maintained. Look for chipping/peeling paint and dust on the interior or exterior of the building.

- ✓ Before you commit, have a certified lead-based paint inspector test the building. The inspector will help you determine if lead is present and if there are any health risks. Visit lead.utah.gov to find a local inspector.
- ✓ The building should be inspected by an accredited asbestos inspector before you commit. Find a certified inspector on Utah DEQ's website at asbestos.utah.gov and click on *Professional Asbestos Service Providers in Utah*.

What was the property used as before? (check all that apply)

Commercial or Retail Shops	Industry of Manufacturing	Outdoor
<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Cleaner <input type="checkbox"/> Hair/Nail Salon <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Repair Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Copy/Print Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Gas Station <input type="checkbox"/> Art Studio <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Home <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting Range <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Plating <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Welding <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Mill <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Farming <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill <input type="checkbox"/> Undeveloped <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

*For any of the above checked boxes, please share any known information.

Name of business: _____

Name of property owner: _____

Years of operation: _____

Specific industry of manufacturing (if applicable):

Please provide any additional information you think would be helpful (if known):

Surrounding properties

Are there nearby businesses (~200 ft radius) that currently use chemicals? Check what you see on or near the property (check all that apply)

- Dry Cleaner
- Hair/Nail Salon
- Gas Station
- Recycling Facility

Please provide any additional information you think would be helpful (if known):

Note: There may be other environmental hazards that can cause harm to children in addition to the list above. If you have a concern about a specific situation, please contact the Utah Department of Health and Human Services APPLETREE program at 801-538-6191 or APPLETREE@utah.gov.

Childcare property information

What would best describe your playground surface (ground) cover?

- The property is safe to walk and play.
- The outdoor property is covered (e.g., grass, asphalt, soft rubber)
If yes, describe the cover type:
 - The surface/ground cover is in good condition
 - The surface/ground cover has holes in it/exposed parts
 - The surface/ground is open gravel

Has the building ever been tested for radon?

- Yes, with results below 4.0 pCi/L
- No
- Yes, with results at or above 4.0 pCi/L
- Unknown

Are you interested in free radon testing?

- Yes, please contact me
- No, thank you
- Maybe, I'd like to learn more

Radon levels can change over time and should be tested every five years.

Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. Get help with follow-up tests and/or a mitigation system.

You can receive a FREE radon test kit by calling (801) 872-6710 or go to utahradonservices.com/radon-test.

Drinking water

Where does the drinking water come from?

- Public drinking water supply
- Private well

Has the drinking water been tested for lead?

- Yes, with results below 15 ug/L
- No
- Yes, with results above 15 ug/L
- Not sure

Are you interested in free lead testing?

- Yes, please contact me
- No, thank you
- Maybe, I'd like to learn more

Lead can enter a building's drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode and leach into the drinking water distribution system.

- ✓ Testing your water is the only way to know if there is lead.
- ✓ Utah's Lead-Free Learning Initiative helps childcare programs test for lead in their drinking water for free. Learn more and apply for funding on their website at leadfreeschools.utah.gov.

Childcare property information

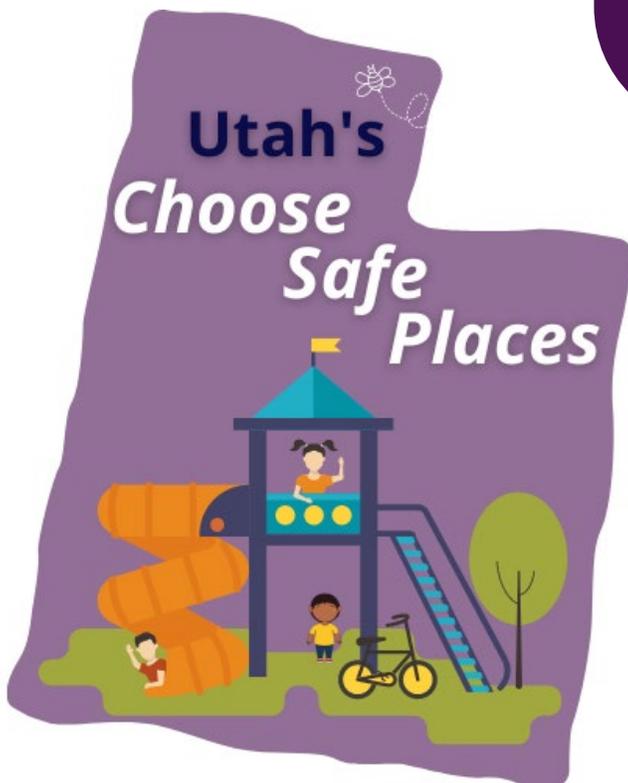
If drinking water comes from a private well, has the water been tested for arsenic or other contaminants?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Private wells can be contaminated from outside sources. Visit EPA's Private Drinking Water Wells website for more information at epa.gov/privatewells.

- ✓ The only way to make sure a well is safe for drinking is to test regularly.
 - Test for bacteria and nitrates at least once a year.
 - Test for arsenic at least once (and more often if it is found).

Contact your local public health district for more information



To fill out the form and submit it online scan the QR code below

