

# Utah Choose Safe Places

Assess environmental concerns at or around daycare to protect children from harmful substances



## What is the Utah Choose Safe Places (CSP) Program?

Children spend large amounts of time at daycare. In general, children are more vulnerable to the effects of harmful substances compared with adults because their bodies are small and are still growing and developing. In addition, they have more hand-to-mouth activity which increases 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 where children live, learn, and play. The **Utah Choose Safe Places (UT CSP) program** is a voluntary program to identify and address potential environmental concerns at or around daycares to protect children and providers from harmful substances in the environment.

The mission of the UT CSP program is to:

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

## What are key considerations for home-based daycares?

- **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.
- **Migration of harmful substances onto the home from nearby properties**  
Contamination can come from a source nearby, such as a gas station, and migrate onto the daycare 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 of harmful substances at or around your home daycare!**

**Utah Department of Health**

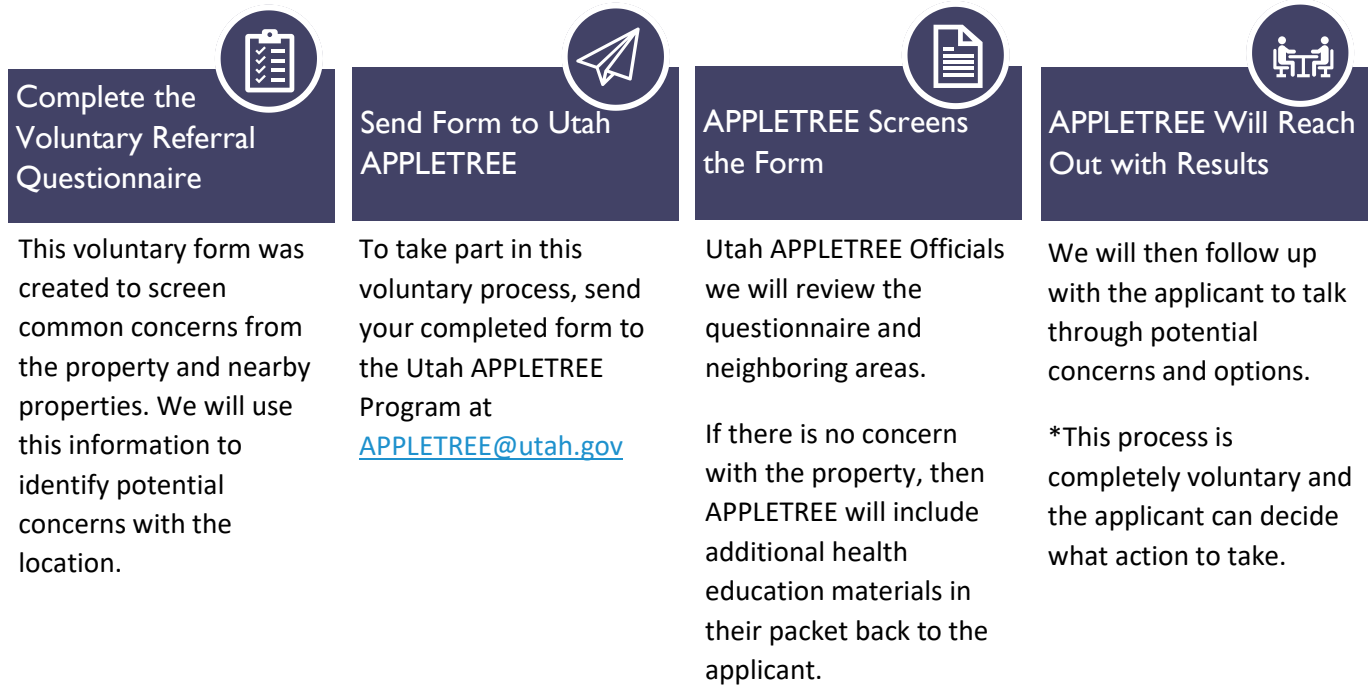
Division of Disease Control and Prevention

Bureau of Epidemiology

[appletree.at.utah.gov/utah-choose-safe-places](http://appletree.at.utah.gov/utah-choose-safe-places) | [APPLETREE@utah.gov](mailto:APPLETREE@utah.gov)



## This is how it works



## How to complete the questionnaire

This questionnaire collects information about your home and neighborhood. The information you provide will help the APPLETREE program identify whether environmental hazards may be present in your home or on your property and ensure that 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.

- Home owner
- Realtor
- Local health department. You can find your local health department information at [ualhd.org](http://ualhd.org)
- Town planner/Town zoning office

*If you have questions about completing this questionnaire, please contact the Utah Department of Health at 801-538-6191 or [APPLETREE@utah.gov](mailto:APPLETREE@utah.gov). If you have questions about the childcare licensing process, please contact UT Childcare Licensing Program at 888-287-3704.*

## Applicant Information

Name:

Address of the Property:

## History of the Property/Home

Home constructed in:

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre 1970  | <input type="checkbox"/> 2011-present |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1971-1990 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not known    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1991-2010 |                                       |

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

- ✓ 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](http://lead.utah.gov) to find a local inspector.
- ✓ Hire an accredited asbestos inspector to inspect the building before you commit. Find a certified inspector on Utah DEQ's website at [asbestos.utah.gov](http://asbestos.utah.gov) and click on *Professional Asbestos Service Providers in Utah*.

Has the home been tested for meth contamination?

- Yes, with results below **1.0 µg/100cm<sup>2</sup>**
- No
- Yes, with results at or above **1.0 µg/100cm<sup>2</sup>**
- Unknown

Properties can be contaminated from both the chemicals used in meth production and/or residue left by using meth. For more information about meth and your property please visit [health.utah.gov/meth](http://health.utah.gov/meth)

## Surrounding Properties

Are there nearby businesses (~200 ft radius) that currently use chemicals? Check all that apply

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Cleaner        | <input type="checkbox"/> Metals, such as old machinery or pipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair/Nail Salon    | <input type="checkbox"/> Drum Barrels                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas Station        | <input type="checkbox"/> Old cars or tires                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling Facility | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Click here to enter text.       |

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 APPLETREE program at 801-538-6191 or [APPLETREE@utah.gov](mailto:APPLETREE@utah.gov).*

## Home Property Information

### What best describes your yard 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 home 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

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

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. for non-smokers.

Get FREE help for radon testing by calling (801) 536-0091 or email [ediver@utah.gov](mailto:ediver@utah.gov).

### Where does the drinking water come from?

- Public drinking water supply
- Private well

Pipes, faucets, and other plumbing components in a home can contain lead.

- ✓ Check your home for these sources.

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

- ✓ The only way to make sure a well is safe for drinking water 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 health department for more information: [ualhd.org](http://ualhd.org).