



LEAD IN SOIL WORKSHEET FOR CENTER-BASED CHILD CARE

Background: Lead can be found in soil because of the historic use of lead-based paint and leaded gasoline for cars, the current use of leaded gas by small airplanes, and industries that put lead into the air. Your soil could be lead-contaminated if your child care facility is next to a busy highway or high-traffic road or if it was built before 1978 (lead paint was used on buildings until it was banned in 1978). In addition, if your child care facility is located in or near a current or former industrial area, the soil could be contaminated with lead.

Children may be exposed to lead-contaminated soil by playing in bare dirt. The main way children get lead into their bodies is ingestion, most commonly by touching dirt and putting their hands in their mouths or by handling toys that have been in the dirt and then putting their hands in their mouths. It's also possible for children to consume lead by eating vegetables grown in lead-contaminated soil (such as carrots, sweet potatoes, and other root vegetables).

Lead is especially harmful to children. Children's bodies react differently to lead, as compared to an adult's. Lead interferes with absorbing calcium since bodies will substitute lead for calcium. Young bodies need calcium as they develop, so children can absorb 50% of the lead they ingest, while adults only absorb about 10%. Finally, because children's brains and nervous systems are still developing, they are more sensitive to the neurotoxic effects of lead.

Instructions: To reduce potential exposures to lead in soil, follow each step below to find out if lead is in the soil around your child care facility. Complete this worksheet once a year and keep it in your handbook for your records.

Date this form was completed: _____

NOTE: Many child care centers are located in facilities owned or managed by another entity. Developing a strong working relationship with the child care facility building owner and/or management company is beneficial to the implementation of the lead prevention best practices provided below. For example, any lead testing and remediation activities will rely heavily on a partnership between the owner/management and child care staff.

To ensure lead prevention efforts are successful, it is critical that ALL facility staff (including: janitors, maintenance, and front office/administrative staff) are aware of the lead prevention best practices provided below. There are many ways to foster the extension of lead prevention information, including through staff newsletters, meetings, or trainings.



1 CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF FINDS OUT WHEN THE FACILITY WAS BUILT

Instructions: Disclosure requirements for commercial property sales and leases vary by state or local jurisdiction, and may or may not include information related to environmental issues, including lead hazards. However, as a best practice, any known lead paint, dust, soil, or water testing or mitigation results should be disclosed prior to sale or lease, to enable new occupants to fully understand the risks, even if disclosure is not technically required. If you own your child care facility, consult the materials you received at purchase.

If you rent, ask your landlord or management company. For more information on commercial real estate and disclosure requirements, check with your local health or housing department. The [National Lead Information Center](#) is another great resource on lead hazards, prevention, and disclosures.

State-level grant programs and local funding resources may be available if you need financial support to carry out lead hazard controls in your child care facility. Contact your local childhood lead poisoning prevention program to find out more information.

Check one of the boxes below to indicate action taken based on the child care facility's year of construction.

Year Built: _____

- This child care center was built after 1978; therefore, exterior paint is not expected to contain lead.
- There are no signs of chipping, cracking, peeling, or deteriorating paint. (Check on a periodic basis.)
- There are signs of chipping, cracking, peeling, or deteriorating paint. (Go to **Lead in Paint Worksheet** for further instructions for reducing these hazards.)
- We cleaned up visible paint chips from the ground immediately and followed steps 2 through 4 to reduce people's exposure.

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CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF AND/OR THE BUILDING OWNER TEST THE BARE SOIL AROUND THE FACILITY FOR LEAD CONTAMINATION AND KEEP RECORDS OF ALL TEST RESULTS.

Instructions: You should have your soil tested by an EPA-recognized National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP). Review EPA's [list of NLLAP labs](#) to find the one closest to you.

Before collecting samples, contact the lab for instructions. The lab may also supply sampling materials and forms. Child care center staff and/or the building owner can collect the samples, or some labs may come to the facility and collect the soil samples. Check with the state or local lead poisoning prevention program to see if they have any additional instructions. Visit epa.gov/lead or call 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) for a list of state and local contacts.

Your [county or state's cooperative extension service office](#) may also offer soil testing if your child care center is located in a high-risk urban setting.

Soil testing costs between \$20 and \$100.

For more information on lead in soil, read the EPA's pamphlet, [Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home](#).

Once initial testing of the soil around the child care facility is completed, child care center staff and/or the building owner will only need to test any NEW areas of bare soil for lead contamination on an annual basis.

- The child care facility has no bare areas in the playground or play areas ; therefore a lead in soil test was not completed. (Go to Step 4.)
- Child care center staff and/or the building owner tested the soil for lead.

Name and contact information for the laboratory that tested the soil:

Laboratory analysis report is on file. Yes No

Test results indicated a possible problem with lead in soil:

Yes (Go to Step 3) No (Go to Step 4)

Child care center staff disclosed lead in soil testing results to parents and staff.

Yes No

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TESTING THIS YEAR INDICATES A POTENTIAL PROBLEM. CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF ARE TAKING THE MEASURES CHECKED BELOW TO REDUCE PEOPLE'S EXPOSURE.

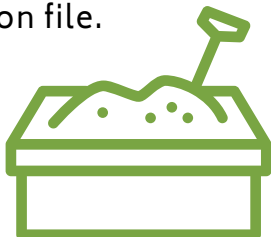
If testing finds lead concentrations in soil above 400 parts per million (ppm) in play areas of bare soil or above 1,200 ppm (average) in bare soil in the remainder of the facility's grounds, use at least one of the measures below to reduce exposure.

- Planted grass, laid sod, or covered the soil with mulch or wood chips. (The child care center does not use artificial turf nor crumb rubber to cover bare soil.)
- Created barriers between outdoor play areas and possible lead-contaminated areas.
- Restricted outdoor activities but provided children a sandbox or water table inside the facility as an alternative sensory activity space.
- Permanently removed and replaced lead-contaminated soil.

Instructions: To find certified lead abatement contractors, visit EPA's Certified Inspection, Risk Assessment, and Abatement Firms [Locator](#) or [Map](#) of Lead Paint Abatement Programs Authorized by the EPA. Soil removal and replacement costs will vary depending on the size of the area of concern and whether there are buried utility lines in the area.

Name and contact information for contractor who is helping with permanent source removal measures:

- Records of remediation efforts and schedules for upkeep and maintenance onsite are on file.



4 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE CHILD CARE CENTER FOUND LEAD IN THE SOIL, THEY FOLLOW THESE BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE ANY SOIL AND DUST FROM COMING INTO THE CHILD CARE FACILITY:

- Child care center staff supply a commercial walk-off mat (as wide as our door) at all the entrances of the facility OR the center is shoe-free.
- Child care center staff enforce a clean hands policy: Children always wash their hands with plain soap and water after playing outside.
- Child care center staff vacuum often using a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter.
- Child care center staff wet mop floors daily.



- Child care center staff clean window frames, windowsills, and toys weekly. Using a damp mop, sponge, or paper towel with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. Whenever possible, staff use a cleaner that is third-party certified as least-toxic, fragrance-free by [EcoLogo](#) or [GreenSeal](#), or has the [EPA's Safer Choice](#) Fragrance-Free label.



RESOURCES ON LEAD IN SOIL:

- EPA's "Protect Your Family from Exposures to Lead" web page, "Soil, Yards and Playgrounds" section: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead#soil>
- Penn State Extension's "Lead in Residential Soils: Sources, Testing, and Reducing Exposure" web page: <https://extension.psu.edu/lead-in-residential-soils-sources-testing-and-reducing-exposure>
- Oregon State University Extension Services' "Reducing Lead Hazard in Gardens and Play Areas" booklet: https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/ec1616_1.pdf
- University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment's "Soil Lead: Testing, Interpretation, and Recommendations" web page: <https://ag.umass.edu/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/fact-sheets/soil-lead-testing-interpretation-recommendations>
- Illinois Poison Control's "Testing Your Yard and Garden for Lead Contaminated Soil" web page: <https://www.illinoispoisoncenter.org/leadsoil>
- California Department of Public Health's "Testing Your Home for Lead" web page: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/CLPPB/Pages/home_test.aspx
- Georgia Department of Public Health's "Lead Education and FAQs" web page: <https://dph.georgia.gov/lead-education-and-faqs>
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's "Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program" web page: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/lead-colorado-childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-program>



***Always contact the local health department if you think there may be lead in or around the child care facility. DO NOT TRY TO REMOVE LEAD-BASED PAINT YOURSELF. Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard by spreading even more lead dust around the child care facility. Families should also have their children tested if they suspect they have been exposed to lead.**

****Always check local and state child care licensing regulations to make sure the child care facility is in compliance.**