



# LEAD IN SOIL WORKSHEET FOR HOME-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 home is next to a busy highway or high-traffic road or if it was built before 1978 (lead paint was used on homes until it was banned in 1978). In addition, if your child care home 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).

**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 home. Complete this worksheet once a year and keep it in your family handbook for your records.

Date this form was completed: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 WE FOUND OUT WHEN OUR CHILD CARE HOME WAS BUILT.

**Instructions:** If you own your home, consult the materials you received at your purchase. If you rent, ask your landlord. For more information on what information should be provided to you on lead paint hazards, visit the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's \(EPA\) Real Estate Disclosures about Lead Paint Hazards](#) web page.

For further assistance with your rights as a renter, view the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's \(HUD\) Tenant Rights](#) web page.

Check one of the boxes below to indicate action taken based on your home's year of construction.

Year Built: \_\_\_\_\_

- This home was built after 1978; therefore, exterior paint is not expected to contain lead.
- There are no signs of chipping, peeling, or deteriorating paint. (Check on a weekly basis.)
- There are signs of chipping, 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.

## 2 WE TEST THE BARE SOIL AROUND OUR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME 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. You can collect the samples yourself, or some labs may come to your family child care home and collect the soil samples. Check with your state or local lead poisoning prevention program to see if they have any additional instructions. Visit [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead) or call 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) for a list of state and local contacts. 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 you've completed an initial testing of your soil around your family child care home, you'll only need to test any NEW areas of bare soil for lead contamination on an annual basis.

We have no bare areas in our yard; therefore, we did not test our soil for lead. (Go to Step 4.)

We have tested our soil for lead.  
Name and contact information for laboratory that tested our soil:

Laboratory analysis report is on file.  Yes  No

Test results indicated a possible problem with lead in soil.  Yes (Go to Step 3)

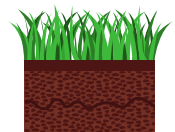
No (Go to Step 4)

We disclosed lead in soil testing results to parents and staff.  Yes  No

## 3 TESTING THIS YEAR INDICATES A POTENTIAL PROBLEM. WE 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 yard, use at least one of the measures below to reduce exposure.

Planted grass, laid sod, or covered the soil with mulch or wood chips.



- Restricted outdoor activities but provided children a sandbox or water table as an alternative sensory activity space.
- Created barriers between outdoor play areas and possible lead-contaminated areas.
- Lead-contaminated soil permanently removed and replaced.

**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 WE FOUND LEAD IN OUR YARD SOIL, WE FOLLOW THESE BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE ANY SOIL AND DUST FROM COMING INTO OUR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME:**

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



- We 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, we 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:  
<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](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>

## RESOURCES ON LEAD IN SOIL-CONTINUED:

- 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](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 your local health department or primary health care provider if you think there may be lead in or around your child care home. **DON'T TRY TO REMOVE LEAD-BASED PAINT YOURSELF.** Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house. Families should also have their children tested if they suspect they have been exposed to lead.

\*\*Always check your local and state child care licensing regulations to make sure you are in compliance.