California Residential Lease Agreement

1. Parties and rental home

Landlord / owner name

Landlord phone

Landlord email

Tenant 1 full name

Tenant 1 phone

Tenant 1 email

Tenant 2 full name

Tenant 2 phone

Tenant 2 email

Tenant 3 full name

Tenant 3 phone

Tenant 3 email

Rental address, unit, city, state and ZIP

Other authorized occupants

Landlord rents to Tenant the dwelling identified above for residential use. Each signing Tenant is a party to this agreement. A person listed only as an authorized occupant is not a signing Tenant.

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Tenant will use the home lawfully and take reasonable care of it. Changes in occupants, assignments and subleases require written agreement where permitted by law. These provisions do not limit protected accommodation or other statutory rights.

2. Lease term

Start date

End date

Any extension or renewal must be documented as required by law. The stated end date does not by itself authorize removal of an occupant. Continued occupancy, renewal, rent changes and termination remain subject to applicable California and local law. Neither party waives a statutory right to terminate a tenancy early. The notice period and grounds required for termination depend on the tenancy and applicable protections.

3. Rent and payment

Monthly rent ($)

Day due each month

Payment method and delivery instructions

Late fee terms

Returned-payment terms

Fees must be lawful and separately identified. The rent amount, payment date and payment instructions above govern ordinary payments, subject to applicable law. Payment instructions must include a permitted alternative to cash-only or electronic-only payment. No fee is imposed merely for payment by check. Any late charge must satisfy applicable standards and local limits; no percentage charge is presumed valid. Rent increases and changes to payment terms require the notices and authority provided by law.

4. Security and move-in payment

Refundable security ($)

Other refundable security ($)

First rental payment ($)

Prorated period, if applicable

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Total due ($)

Move-in payment due date

Required security is refundable and is limited by California Civil Code section 1950.5. Combined security deposits are limited to one month of rent unless the landlord qualifies for the statutory small-owner exception, which permits up to two months and does not apply to a service member. The property answers and any required supporting disclosures identify the selected basis; no deposit may exceed the applicable legal limit. Labels such as key deposit, pet deposit or move-in charge do not remove a payment from the security rules. Security may be applied only to lawful, reasonable deductions, excluding ordinary wear and pre-existing damage. Landlord will maintain required condition photographs and provide the required inspection opportunity, accounting, supporting documentation and refund within the applicable statutory periods, including the 21-day accounting period after move-out. Refund methods and delivery must comply with current law. Where multiple adult tenants are parties, any alternative allocation or return method requires the agreement required by law; Tenant 1 is not automatically the sole recipient.

5. Utilities, services and appliances

Electricity: responsible party

Amount, split or other terms

Gas: responsible party

Amount, split or other terms

Water: responsible party

Amount, split or other terms

Sewer: responsible party

Amount, split or other terms

Trash: responsible party

Amount, split or other terms

Internet: responsible party

Amount, split or other terms

Parking: responsible party

Amount, split or other terms

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Included appliances, services and storage

Utility billing and allocations must identify the service, the party responsible and any agreed division. Shared-meter arrangements require applicable disclosures. Tenant retains any statutory right to opt out of paying for a third-party internet subscription offered with the tenancy. Included parking and any separately charged parking must be identified and comply with applicable requirements. Landlord will provide and maintain the appliances required for this tenancy. A tenant-supplied refrigerator arrangement, if requested by Tenant, requires a separate compliant agreement and may not be a condition of renting the home.

6. Care and maintenance

Maintenance contact and reporting instructions

Landlord remains responsible for the habitability and maintenance duties imposed by California law. Tenant will keep the home reasonably clean, use fixtures and appliances properly, dispose of waste appropriately, and promptly report leaks, unsafe conditions, suspected pests and needed repairs. Tenant is responsible for damage caused by Tenant or persons for whom Tenant is legally responsible, beyond ordinary wear. A move-in condition record documents existing conditions without waiving either party's rights. Landlord's maintenance duties are not transferred to Tenant by a general acknowledgment that the home was inspected.

Alterations and lock changes require written consent except where the law provides otherwise. Required reasonable accommodations and modifications are not prohibited by this clause. Tenant will not disable required smoke or carbon monoxide alarms and will promptly report a malfunction. Neither party waives a lawful repair remedy or the right to request emergency assistance.

7. Access

Landlord may enter only for a purpose and in a manner permitted by California Civil Code section 1954. Required notice will identify the intended entry and be given using a lawful method; reasonable advance notice is required except where a statutory exception applies. Entry will occur during permitted hours and will not be used to harass Tenant. This agreement does not grant unrestricted inspection rights or authorize changing locks to exclude Tenant.

8. Animals, smoking and community rules

Pet terms; assistance-animal rights remain protected

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

These terms do not restrict service animals, support animals or other reasonable accommodations protected by law. Assistance animals are not treated as pets for pet rent, pet deposits or ordinary pet breed, size or weight limits. Pet approval and any lawful pet conditions are recorded separately from accommodation requests.

Areas where smoking is allowed or prohibited

Community rules incorporated into the lease

Rules and their enforcement must be lawful, reasonable where required, and applied without unlawful discrimination or retaliation. The smoking policy identifies the areas in which smoking is allowed or prohibited. No rule authorizes self-help eviction, interference with emergency assistance or waiver of protected tenant rights.

9. Default, damage and move-out

Each party retains the notices, cure periods and remedies provided by applicable law. Landlord may recover possession only through lawful procedures and may not use lockouts, utility shutoffs or seizure of possessions to force a move-out. Termination, casualty, disaster remediation, delayed possession, abandonment and personal property left behind are governed by applicable law. Temporary relocation does not automatically limit compensation to prorated rent. On move-out, Tenant returns possession and keys, removes belongings and leaves the home at the required level of cleanliness, allowing ordinary wear. Insurance requirements do not excuse either party from legal responsibility. No pre-dispute jury waiver or general release of Landlord's liability is created by this agreement.

10. Management and property disclosures

Authorized manager name

Manager mailing address

Owner / agent for service and notices

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Address for service and notices

Tenant's notice address is the rental home unless lawfully updated. The management and service contacts above receive communications in their stated roles. Phone and email details are for routine contact; statutory notices must be delivered by a method authorized for that notice. Sharing an online signing link does not substitute for statutory service. Local rent stabilization, just-cause protections and any required exemption notice must be evaluated for this property before execution.

Construction year

California property details

Complete the applicable property information below. Small-owner questions apply only when claiming that deposit exception. Lead questions apply to covered housing built before 1978. Exemption, other-condition and tenant-refrigerator details apply only when those choices are selected. Identify separately supplied documents in the list below. Give each tenant those documents with this lease before they sign. They are not reproduced in this PDF; retain them with the signed lease. Documents requiring separate signatures must also be signed.

Property

City / local jurisdiction

County

Rental type

Main language used to negotiate

Legal review

Local housing rules

Local review source or reference

State rent-limit coverage

State just-cause coverage

Basis for any exemption

Security deposit limit

Owner is a natural person, or an LLC whose members are all natural persons

Total residential rental properties owned

Total residential units offered for rent

Is any signing tenant a service member?

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Property disclosures

Known special flood hazard or potential flooding

Known current bedbug infestation in the vacant home

Current order prohibiting occupancy or an unresolved unsafe condition

Known lead paint or lead hazards

Known lead information

Available lead records or reports

List of lead records supplied

Agent involved on the landlord’s behalf

Periodic pest-control service

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Shared utility meter or water submeter billing

Other known conditions or required notices

Conditions and notices to disclose

Appliances

Working cooking stove provided by landlord

Working refrigerator

Tenant requested their own refrigerator voluntarily

Third-party internet service charged by landlord

Parking terms reviewed

Separately supplied documents and addenda: title and date

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Required lead-based paint disclosures and records for covered pre-1978 housing, the applicable lead pamphlet, the California mold booklet, bedbug information and other property-specific notices must be delivered before signing when required. Flood, pesticide, shared-meter and other known-condition disclosures must reflect the actual property. The parties identify all supplied addenda below. An unchecked item or a missing answer is not a representation that a hazard is absent.

California notices

Notice: Pursuant to Section 290.46 of the Penal Code, information about specified registered sex offenders is made available to the public via a website maintained by the Department of Justice at www.meganslaw.ca.gov. Depending on an offender's criminal history, this information will include either the address at which the offender resides or the community of residence and ZIP Code in which he or she resides.

Tenant Protection Act notice (coverage and any required exemption notice are identified above).

California law limits the amount your rent can be increased. See Section 1947.12 of the Civil Code for more information. California law also provides that after all of the tenants have continuously and lawfully occupied the property for 12 months or more or at least one of the tenants has continuously and lawfully occupied the property for 24 months or more, a landlord must provide a statement of cause in any notice to terminate a tenancy. See Section 1946.2 of the Civil Code for more information.

Tenant may obtain hazard information, including flood hazards, at https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov/. Landlord’s insurance does not cover loss of Tenant’s personal possessions. Tenant is encouraged to consider renters and flood insurance for personal possessions. This disclosure does not waive any applicable duty or liability.

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Information about bed bugs

Bed bug Appearance: Bed bugs have six legs. Adult bed bugs have flat bodies about 1⁄4 of an inch in length. Their color can vary from red and brown to copper colored. Young bed bugs are very small. Their bodies are about 1⁄16 of an inch in length. They have almost no color. When a bed bug feeds, its body swells, may lengthen, and becomes bright red, sometimes making it appear to be a different insect. Bed bugs do not fly. They can either crawl or be carried from place to place on objects, people, or animals. Bed bugs can be hard to find and identify because they are tiny and try to stay hidden. Life Cycle and Reproduction: An average bed bug lives for about 10 months. Female bed bugs lay one to five eggs per day. Bed bugs grow to full adulthood in about 21 days. Bed bugs can survive for months without feeding. Bed bug Bites: Because bed bugs usually feed at night, most people are bitten in their sleep and do not realize they were bitten. A person’s reaction to insect bites is an immune response and so varies from person to person. Sometimes the red welts caused by the bites will not be noticed until many days after a person was bitten, if at all. Common signs and symptoms of a possible bed bug infestation: • Small red to reddish brown fecal spots on mattresses, box springs, bed frames, mattresses, linens, upholstery, or walls. • Molted bed bug skins, white, sticky eggs, or empty eggshells. • Very heavily infested areas may have a characteristically sweet odor. • Red, itchy bite marks, especially on the legs, arms, and other body parts exposed while sleeping. However, some people do not show bed bug lesions on their bodies even though bed bugs may have fed on them. For more information, see the Internet Web sites of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the National Pest Management Association.

Contact and procedure for reporting suspected infestations

Other applicable condition disclosures, pest notices and utility-meter arrangements

Lead-based paint disclosure — covered pre-1978 housing

☐ Applies to this tenancy ☐ Not applicable after review

Housing built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Lead from paint, paint chips, and dust can pose health hazards if not managed properly. Lead exposure is especially harmful to young children and pregnant women. Before renting pre-1978 housing, lessors must disclose the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the dwelling. Lessees must also receive a federally approved pamphlet on lead poisoning prevention.

For covered housing, each Lessee acknowledges receipt of the lead information and listed records above and the EPA pamphlet Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home. Each Lessor and Lessee certifies that their statements are accurate to the best of their knowledge by their signature and

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

date at the end of this agreement. Any involved agent supplies a signed acknowledgment of informing Lessor of the obligations under 42 U.S.C. 4852d and the agent’s duty to ensure compliance. Lessor and any agent retain the completed signed disclosure or lease for at least three years from commencement of the leasing period.

11. Additional agreed terms

Additional terms

12. Entire agreement

This agreement and its identified addenda state the parties' agreement. Applicable federal, California and local law govern. No term waives a protected right or excuses unlawful conduct. Changes require a writing accepted by the parties whose agreement is required. If a provision is unenforceable, the remaining lawful provisions remain effective to the extent permitted by law. Each party receives and retains a complete executed copy, including incorporated disclosures and addenda. The parties may execute this agreement in person. Each party retains a complete signed copy, including applicable incorporated disclosures.

Information on Dampness and Mold for Renters in California

Main points:

- Living in damp or moldy buildings increases the chances of respiratory problems like asthma.
- The critical warning signs are visible mold, water damage, damp materials, or mold smell.
- Dampness is needed for mold to grow, so if you control the dampness, you control the mold.
- Dampness or mold indoors may make housing substandard, per the California Health & Safety Code.



Beginning January 1, 2022, residential landlords shall provide this booklet to prospective residential tenants prior to entering the rental or lease agreement, in accordance with the 2001 Toxic Mold Protection Act (HSC #26148). This booklet, which explains the potential health risks and health impacts that may result from exposure to mold, was produced by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in 2020, in both English and Spanish versions.

Health Problems from Damp or Moldy Buildings

Living or working in damp or moldy buildings increases the risk of many harmful health problems, including:

- asthma attacks in people who already have asthma
- a new asthma diagnosis
- respiratory infections, such as bronchitis
- breathing symptoms, such as hay fever, sneezing, stuffy nose, sore throat, wheezing, breathing difficulty, or cough
- eczema or skin rash

Mold can affect people differently. How much a person is affected depends on how sensitive they are and on how much they are exposed. Damp or moldy buildings are linked to health problems in people even if they do not have allergies.

Signs of Dampness or Mold

Signs of dampness or mold that may cause health problems include:

- **visible mold** (regardless of color), such as on walls or ceilings, behind furniture or appliances, under carpets, or even hidden in areas not seen in the occupied areas of homes
- **mold odor**, noticed as an earthy, musty, or moldy smell
- **visible water damage**, such as water-stains or discoloration on walls or ceilings, peeling or bubbled paint, warped floors, or rotting wood
- **damp or moist materials**, including condensation on windows or walls

Any one of these signs indicates increased risks to health, and the more that any of them are present, the greater the risk of health problems. Tests that identify the types of mold or the amounts of mold in buildings are not useful in telling us about the health risks. This is *why CDPH does not recommend testing for mold, such as measuring mold spores in the air*.



Causes of Building Dampness that Can Allow Mold to Grow

The dampness that is necessary for indoor mold to grow can come from either inside or outside a building.

Indoor sources include:

- leaking or burst water pipes, for instance under sinks inside walls
- not enough venting to the outside by open windows or exhaust fans in places where water is used or moisture is produced (for example, bathrooms, laundry areas, kitchens, and water heaters)
- condensation (water droplets) on cold surfaces, including windows

Outdoor sources include:

- water coming in through leaky roofs or poorly-sealed windows, or from flooding
- damp, exposed dirt in crawl spaces
- outdoor surfaces that slope and drain water toward a building, including from a downspout





Fixing Dampness and Mold Problems

The California Health & Safety Code (HSC §17920.3) says that when dampness or visible mold (or certain other conditions) in a home is a hazard to the health of occupants, the home is *substandard* and the property owner must fix the conditions. The Code excludes mold that is "minor and found on surfaces that accumulate moisture as part of their properly functioning and intended use."

CDPH recommends fixing dampness and mold problems as follows:

- identifying and correcting the source of any water that may allow mold to grow
- rapid drying or removal of damp materials
- cleaning or removing mold and moldy materials as rapidly and safely as possible

Note: if a moldy area is simply bleached, cleaned, or painted over—without fixing the source of the dampness—the mold is likely to grow again.

Renters in California

The California Health & Safety Code requires property owners to provide a rental unit that is safe and healthy for the people living in it. Prospective renters should look for obvious conditions that show dampness or mold, and also less obvious signs like water leaks under the kitchen and bathroom sinks or moldy odor in a sealed-up home. Also look for conditions likely to cause future problems, like a bathroom that has no working vent fan or no window that opens, or a clothes dryer without an outside vent.

For renters who suspect there is dampness or mold:

1. Tell the property owner or manager. Early detection and correction of the dampness and mold problems can reduce the risks to your health and prevent the problem from getting worse.

2. If your property owner will not respond to your concerns in a reasonable amount of time, contact your local (city or county) code enforcement agency and ask for a code enforcement officer to inspect for violations. Many dampness or mold problems in rental homes are the responsibility of the property owner and must be addressed by them. However, a code enforcement officer may determine that dampness or mold in a building results from a tenant's actions or inactions – for instance, not using available bathroom ventilation during showers.

3. If the local inspector determines there is a violation, they can require the property owner to correct the problem.

Additional Resources

For general information on dampness and mold and a list of local code enforcement agencies, with a focus on dampness and mold, see www.cdph.ca.gov/iaq/mold. To see an animated video series, Mold in the Home, visit www.cdph.ca.gov/mold.

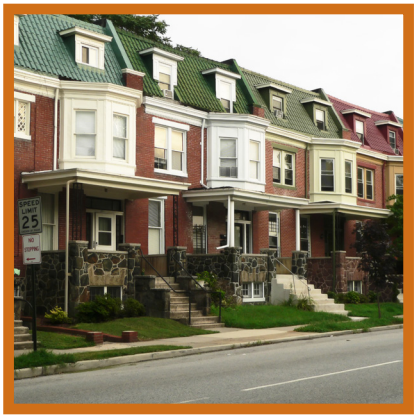
Property owners must provide a rental unit that is safe and healthy for the people living in it.

Tenants must notify property owners of any dampness or mold problems.

For more information, visit CDPH website (www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact_us.aspx)







Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

January 2026

English

Are You Planning to Buy or Rent a Home Built Before 1978?

Did you know that many homes built before 1978 have **lead-based paint**? Lead from paint, chips and dust can pose serious health hazards.

Read this entire brochure to learn:

- How lead gets into the body
- How lead affects health
- What you can do to protect your family
- Where to go for more information

Before renting or buying a pre-1978 home or apartment, federal law requires sellers, landlords, agents and rental property managers to:

- Disclose known information about the presence of lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards (or state there is none)
- Provide all available records and reports on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards (or state there are none)
- Include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint
- Give buyers up to 10 days to have a certified inspector or risk assessor check for lead.

If undertaking renovation, repair or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or apartment:

- Read EPA's pamphlet, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right,* to learn about the lead-safe work practices that contractors are required to follow when working in your home (see page 12).



Steps to Protect Your Family from Lead Hazards

If you think your home has lead-based paint:

- Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.
- Always keep painted surfaces in good condition to minimize deterioration.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards. Find a certified risk assessor at cdxapps.epa.gov/leadpro.
- Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills and other surfaces using wet methods.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling.
- Hire only EPA-, Tribal- or state-approved Lead-Safe Certified renovation firms when renovating, repairing or painting. Find an EPA-certified firm using cdxapps.epa.gov/leadpro.
- Have your home checked for lead-based paint by a certified inspector or risk assessor before buying, renting or renovating your home.
- Consult your health care provider about testing your children for lead. Your pediatrician can check for lead with a simple blood test.
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys often.
- Make sure children eat a well-balanced diet with foods high in iron, calcium and vitamin C as these nutrients may help prevent the absorption of lead.
- Remove shoes or wipe soil and other dirt off shoes before entering your house.

Lead Gets into the Body in Many Ways

Adults and children can get lead into their bodies if they:

- Breathe in lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs or painting that disturb painted surfaces)
- Swallow lead dust that has settled on food, food preparation surfaces and other places
- Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead

Lead is especially dangerous to children under the age of 6.

- At this age, children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead.
- Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. These objects can have dust that may contain lead on them.



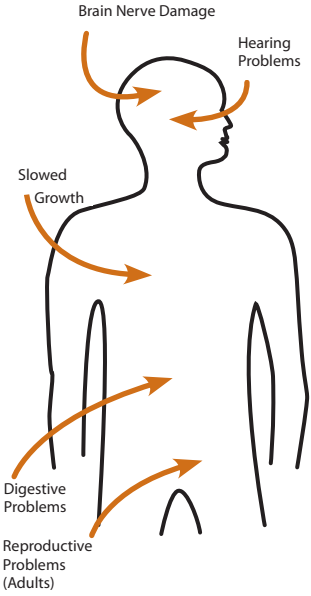
Lead is dangerous to a developing fetus.

- Lead can build up in the body over time, settling in the bones. This stored lead can be transferred during pregnancy to a fetus or after birth to an infant through breast milk.

Please see pages 13 and 14 for more information on sources of lead exposure.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead affects the body in many ways. It is important to know that no safe blood lead level has been identified and even exposure to low levels of lead can harm children.



In children, exposure to lead can cause:

- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention-deficit disorder and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage

While low-lead exposure is most common, exposure to high amounts of lead can have devastating effects on children, including seizures, unconsciousness and in some cases, death.

In adults, exposure to lead can cause an increased risk of:

- Miscarriage during pregnancy
- The baby being born too early or too small
- Harm to a developing fetus' brain, kidneys and nervous system
- Fertility problems (in men and women)
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems
- Nerve disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pain

Check Your Family for Lead

Get your children and home tested if you think your home has lead.

Children's blood lead levels (BLLs) tend to increase rapidly from 6 to 12 months of age, and BLLs tend to peak at 18 to 24 months of age.

A simple blood test is the best way to find out if a child has been exposed to lead. A child who has been exposed to lead may not have visible signs or symptoms and may look and act healthy. Consult your doctor for advice on getting your children tested.

Blood lead tests are required for the following groups:

- Children at 12 and 24 months enrolled in Medicaid
- Children between 24 and 72 months enrolled in Medicaid with no record of a previous blood lead test
- Children who should be tested under your Tribal, state or local health testing plan

Blood lead tests are recommended for the following groups:

- Children at 12 and 24 months living in areas that are at higher risk* or who belong to populations that are at higher risk*
- Children or other family members who have been exposed to lead

Your doctor can explain what the test results mean and if more testing will be needed.

---

* Some children are more likely to be exposed to lead than others. These include children who live or spend time in a house or building built before 1978, are from low-income households, live or spend time with someone who works with lead or are immigrants, refugees or recently adopted from less developed countries.

Where Lead-Based Paint Is Found

In general, the older your home or childcare facility, the more likely it has lead-based paint.[1]

Many homes and childcare facilities built before 1978 may have lead-based paint. In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint.[2]

Learn how to determine if paint is lead-based paint on page 7.

Lead can be found:

- In homes and childcare facilities in the city, country or suburbs
- In private and public single-family homes and apartments
- On surfaces inside and outside of the house
- In soil around a home (soil can pick up lead from exterior paint or other sources, such as past use of leaded gas in cars)

Learn more about where lead is found at epa.gov/lead.

[1] "Lead-based paint" is currently defined by the federal government as paint with lead levels greater than or equal to 1.0 milligram per square centimeter (mg/cm^2), or more than 0.5% by weight.

[2] "Lead-containing paint" is currently defined by the federal government as lead in new dried paint in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

Identifying Lead-Based Paint and Lead-Based Paint Hazards

Deteriorated lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking or damaged paint) is a hazard and needs immediate attention. **Lead-based paint** may also be a hazard when found on surfaces that children can chew or that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

- On windows and window sills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters and porches

Lead-based paint is usually not a hazard if it is in good (intact) condition and if it is not on an impact or friction surface like a window.

Lead dust can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded or heated. Lead dust also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together. Lead paint chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can reenter the air when the home is vacuumed or swept, or when people walk through it. EPA currently defines any reportable level of lead dust measured by an EPA-recognized lead laboratory as hazardous.

If you suspect your home has lead-based paint, you should clean regularly to minimize dust using the information on pages 9 and 11, especially when young children live in the home. EPA does not recommend lead abatements based on lead dust unless the lead dust is at or above the action levels listed on page 11.

Lead in soil can be a hazard when children play in bare soil or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in soil as hazardous:

- 400 parts per million (ppm) and higher in play areas of bare soil
- 1,200 ppm (average) and higher in bare soil in the remainder of the yard

Remember, lead from paint chips—which you can see—and lead in dust or soil—which you may not be able to see—can both be hazards.

The only way to find out if paint, dust or soil lead hazards exist is to test for them. The next page describes how to do this.

Checking Your Home for Lead

Hire a certified lead professional to get your home tested for lead in several different ways:

- A lead-based paint **inspection** tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether your home currently has lead hazards or how to deal with them. A trained and certified lead-based paint inspector will inspect the paint using:
  - A portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine
  - Lab tests of paint samples collected by the inspector to be tested in an EPA-recognized lead laboratory



- A **risk assessment** tells you if your home currently has any lead hazards from paint, dust or soil, and what actions to take to address any hazards. A trained and certified lead-based paint risk assessor will:
  - Sample paint that is deteriorated on doors, windows, floors, stairs and walls
  - Sample dust near painted surfaces and sample bare soil in the yard
  - Get lab tests of paint, dust and soil samples
- A **combination inspection and risk assessment** tells you if your home has any lead-based paint, if it has any lead hazards and where both are located.

Be sure to read the report provided to you after your inspection or risk assessment is completed and ask questions about anything you do not understand. Closely monitor areas that are known to have lead-based paint.

Checking Your Home for Lead, continued

In preparing for renovation, repair or painting work in a pre-1978 home, Lead-Safe Certified renovators (see page 12) may do any of the following:

- Take paint chip samples to determine if lead-based paint is present in the area planned for renovation and send them to an EPA-recognized lead lab for analysis
- Use EPA-recognized tests kits to determine if lead-based paint is absent
- Presume that lead-based paint is present and use lead-safe work practices

There are state, Tribal and federal programs in place to ensure that testing is done safely, reliably and effectively. Contact your state, Tribal or local agency for more information, visit epa.gov/lead, or call toll-free **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)** for a list of contacts in your area.[3]

[3] Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling 711.

What You Can Do Now to Protect Your Family

If you suspect that your house has lead-based paint hazards, you can take some immediate steps to reduce your family's risk:

- If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
- Keep painted surfaces clean and free of dust. Clean floors, window frames, window sills and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. (Remember: never mix ammonia and bleach products together because they can form a dangerous gas.)
- Carefully clean up paint chips immediately without creating dust.
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads often during cleaning of dirty or dusty areas, and again afterward.
- Wash your hands and your children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bedtime.
- Keep play areas clean. Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys and stuffed animals regularly.
- Keep children from chewing window sills or other painted surfaces, or eating soil.
- When renovating, repairing or painting, hire only EPA-, Tribal- or state-approved Lead-Safe Certified renovation firms (see page 12).
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Make sure children eat a well-balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy and protein-rich foods. Foods that are higher in iron, calcium and vitamin C may help reduce the body's absorption of lead. Children with empty stomachs absorb more lead than children with food in their stomachs.

Reducing Lead Hazards

Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house.



- In addition to day-to-day cleaning and good nutrition, you can **temporarily** reduce lead-based paint hazards by taking actions, such as repairing damaged painted surfaces and planting grass to cover lead-contaminated soil. These actions are not permanent solutions and will need ongoing attention.
- You can minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing or painting by hiring an EPA-, Tribal- or state-certified renovator who is trained in the use of lead-safe work practices. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, learn how to use lead–safe work practices in your home.
- To remove lead hazards, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement methods (which are designed to permanently address lead-based paint hazards) include removing, sealing or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Just painting over the hazard with regular paint will not permanently address the lead-based paint hazards.

Always use a certified contractor who is trained to address lead hazards safely.

- Hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm (see page 12) to perform renovation, repair or painting (RRP) projects that disturb painted surfaces.
- Hire a certified lead abatement contractor to permanently address lead hazards. This will ensure your contractor knows how to work safely and has the proper equipment to clean up thoroughly.
- Certified contractors will employ qualified workers and follow strict safety rules set by their state or Tribe or by the federal government.

Reducing Lead Hazards, continued

If your home has had a lead abatement, dust cleanup activities must be conducted once the work is completed. Dust cleanup activities must be conducted until clearance testing indicates that lead dust levels are below the following action levels:

- 5 micrograms per square foot (µg/ft^2) for floors, including carpeted floors
- 40 µg/ft^2 for interior window sills
- 100 µg/ft^2 for window troughs

Abatements are designed to permanently address lead-based paint hazards. However, when an abatement is complete, lead dust may still remain above reportable levels (see page 6) and can also be reintroduced into an abated area. Steps to keep lead dust low after an abatement include:

- Using a HEPA vacuum on all furniture and other items returned to the area
- Regularly cleaning floors, window sills, troughs and other hard surfaces with a damp cloth or sponge and a general all-purpose cleaner

Please see page 9 for more information on steps you can take to protect your home after the abatement. For help in locating certified lead abatement professionals in your area, call your state, Tribal or local agency (see pages 15 and 16), visit cdxapps.epa.gov/leadpro, or call toll-free 1-800-424-LEAD [5323].

Renovating, Repairing or Painting a Home with Lead-Based Paint

If you hire a contractor to conduct renovation, repair or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or childcare facility (such as pre-school and kindergarten), your contractor must:

- Be a Lead-Safe Certified firm approved by EPA or an EPA-authorized state or Tribal program
- Use qualified trained individuals (Lead-Safe Certified renovators) who follow specific lead-safe work practices to prevent lead contamination
- Provide a copy of EPA's lead hazard information document, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*



RRP contractors working in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities must follow lead-safe work practices that:

- **Contain the work area.** The area must be contained so that dust and debris do not escape from the work area. Warning signs must be put up, and plastic or other impermeable material and tape must be used.
- **Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.** Some methods generate so much lead-contaminated dust that their use is prohibited. These prohibited methods are:
  - Open-flame burning or torching
  - Sanding, grinding, planing, needle gunning or blasting with power tools and equipment not equipped with a shroud and HEPA vacuum attachment
  - Using a heat gun at temperatures greater than 1100°F
- **Clean up thoroughly.** The work area should be cleaned up daily. When all the work is done, the area must be cleaned up using special cleaning methods and then checked to confirm adequate cleanup.
- **Dispose of waste properly.** Collect and seal waste in a heavy-duty bag or sheeting. When transported, ensure that waste is contained to prevent release of dust and debris.

To learn more about EPA's requirements for RRP projects, visit epa.gov/getleadsafe, or read *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*.

Other Sources of Lead

Lead in Drinking Water

The most common sources of lead in drinking water in homes are lead pipes, fixtures, brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder.

Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986.

You can't smell or taste lead in drinking water.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, have your water tested (See below).

Remember that older homes with a private well can also have plumbing materials that contain lead.

Important Steps You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or doing a load of dishes.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- If you use a filter certified to remove lead, read the directions to learn when to change the cartridge. Using a filter after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead.

Contact your water company to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead. Your area's water company can also provide information about the lead levels in your system's drinking water.

For more information about lead in drinking water, please use EPA's Safe Drinking Water online form at epa.gov/safewaterhotline.

Call your local health department or water company to find out about testing your water, or visit epa.gov/safewater for EPA's lead in drinking water information. Some states or utilities offer programs to pay for water testing for residents. Contact your state or local water company to learn more.

Other Sources of Lead, continued

- **Lead smelters** or other industries that release lead into the air.
- **Your job.** Working in certain jobs may increase adults' potential exposure to lead, such as: renovation or repair of older homes and buildings, painting, construction, refinishing furniture, smelting, mining, auto repair, handling firearms and working at hazardous waste sites. If you work with lead, lead dust or soil could get onto your skin, in your hair and clothes, which can be transferred to the inside of your car or home. Shower and change clothes before coming home. Launder your work clothes separately from the rest of your family's clothes.
- **Hobbies** that use lead, such as making pottery or stained glass, fishing, shooting at a gun range or refinishing furniture that has lead-containing paint or varnish. Call your local health department for information about hobbies that may use lead.
- Old **toys** and **furniture** may have been painted with lead-containing paint or varnish. Older toys and other children's products may have parts that contain lead.[4]
- Food and liquids cooked or stored in **lead crystal** or **lead-glazed pottery or porcelain** may contain lead.
- Items made in other countries and imported into the United States may have lead including toys, painted furniture, metal or plastic jewelry, health remedies, foods, spices, candies, cosmetics, powders, make-up used in religious and cultural practices and folk remedies, such as **"greta"** and **"azarcon,"** used to treat an upset stomach.
- **Older playground equipment** can contain old lead-based paint, and **artificial turf and playground surfaces** made from shredded rubber can contain lead. Take precautions to ensure young children do not eat shredded rubber or put their hands in their mouth before washing them.

[4] In 1978, the federal government banned toys, other children's products, and furniture with lead-containing paint. In 2008, the federal government banned lead in most children's products. The federal government currently bans lead above 100 ppm by weight in most children's products.

For More Information

The National Lead Information Center
Learn how to protect children from lead poisoning and get other information about lead hazards on the Web at epa.gov/lead and hud.gov/lead, or call toll-free **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)**.

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline
For information about lead in drinking water visit epa.gov/safewater or use EPA's Safe Drinking Water online form at epa.gov/safewaterhotline.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Hotline
For information on lead in toys and other consumer products, or to report an unsafe consumer product or a product-related injury, call toll-free **1-800-638-2772,** or visit CPSC's website at cpsc.gov or saferproducts.gov.

Food and Drug Administration
For information on lead in food and foodwares visit www.fda.gov/food/environmental-contaminants-food/lead-food-and-foodwares.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
For information on childhood lead poisoning prevention visit: www.cdc.gov/lead

State and Local Health and Environmental Agencies
Some states, Tribes, counties and cities have their own rules related to lead-based paint. Check with your local agency to see which laws apply to you. Most agencies can also provide information on finding a lead abatement firm in your area, and on possible sources of financial aid for reducing lead hazards. Receive up-to-date address and phone information for your state, Tribal or local contacts on the Web at epa.gov/lead, or contact the National Lead Information Center toll-free at **1-800-424-LEAD [5323]**.

Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access any of the phone numbers in this brochure through TTY by calling **711**.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Offices

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Your Regional EPA Office can provide further information regarding regulations and lead protection programs: epa.gov/lead/contacts.

Region 1 (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and 10 federally recognized Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912
(888) 372-7341

Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and 8 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 2
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Building 205, Mail Stop 225
Edison, NJ 08837-3679

Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, DC, West Virginia and 7 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 3
Four Penn Center
1600 JFK Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and 6 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and 37 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 5 (LL-17J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-3808

Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and 66 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270
(214) 665-7577

Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and 9 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd.
LCRD/TTPB
Lenexa, KS 66219
(800) 223-0425

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 28 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6169

Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada , Guam, American Samoa, Northern Marianas, Palau, Micronesia, Marshall Islands and 148 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 9 (LNC-2-2)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 947-8000

Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and 271 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 10 (20-C04)
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1200

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

The CPSC protects the public against unreasonable risk of injury from consumer products through education, safety standards activities and enforcement. Contact CPSC for further information regarding consumer product safety and regulations.

CPSC
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-4421
1-800-638-2772
cpsc.gov or saferproducts.gov

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. Its Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes' (OLHCHH's) lead hazard reduction grants, healthy homes grants, and guidance and enforcement of the Lead Disclosure Rule and Lead Safe Housing Rule, protect families from lead and other housing hazards.

HUD OLHCHH
lead.regulations@hud.gov
hud.gov/lead

This document is in the public domain. It may be produced by an individual or organization without permission. Information provided in this booklet is based upon current scientific and technical understanding of the issues presented and is reflective of the jurisdictional boundaries established by the statutes governing the co-authoring agencies. Following the advice given will not necessarily provide complete protection in all situations or against all health hazards that can be caused by lead exposure.

U.S. EPA
U.S. CPSC
U.S. HUD

EPA-747-K-26-001
January 2026

IMPORTANT!

Lead From Paint, Dust and Soil in and Around Your Home Can Be Dangerous if Not Managed Properly

- Children under 6 years old are most at risk for lead poisoning.
- Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.
- Homes, schools and childcare facilities built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Even children who seem healthy may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.
- Disturbing surfaces with lead-based paint or removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.
- People can get lead into their bodies by breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.
- People have many options for reducing lead hazards. Generally, lead-based paint that is in good condition is not a hazard (see page 10).

Signatures

TENANT 1 SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed

TENANT 2 SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed

Signatures — continued

TENANT 3 SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed

LANDLORD / OWNER SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed