SUMMARY OF RIGHTS FOR SAFER HOMES

Landlords (owners of the building or someone working for them to rent residences) are required under Illinois law to give this summary to all Illinois housing tenants as the first page of their written lease, whether the lease is new or a renewal. Access, download, or translate this summary on the Illinois Department of Human Rights website at **dhr.illinois.gov/safer-homes**.

If you or a member of your household are a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, you have special rights relating to your housing to make you safer.

1) Under the Illinois Safe Homes Act, you have the right to end your lease early and not pay future rent when you move from your rental place because of a threat of domestic violence or sexual violence.

- To end your lease early, you must give written notice that you are leaving to your landlord before or within three days of permanently leaving (for example, by removing all of your belongings and turning over your keys to the landlord or property manager) or have left your rental place because you are under an imminent threat of domestic violence or sexual violence there. You can also end your lease early by written notice and documentation because sexual violence occurred at your rental place within the last 60 days or later, if circumstances prevented you from telling the landlord sooner.

- You are responsible for paying rent for the period prior to providing written notice and then permanently leaving, but you are not responsible for future rent after that and cannot be charged an "early lease break fee." Your landlord should also return your security deposit if there is no previous unpaid rent or damage to your rental place beyond normal wear and tear.

2) You also have the right to change your locks to prevent further domestic violence or sexual violence at your rental place.

- To exercise this right, you need to provide written notice to the landlord that you are under an imminent threat of domestic or sexual violence and **provide one of the following** forms of documentation evidencing this threat:
  - Medical, court, or police evidence; or,
  - A statement from an employee of a domestic violence or other victim services organization from whom you or a member of your household sought service.

  The landlord must change or give you permission to change the locks within 48 hours of your notice and documentation, at your reasonable expense. If your landlord does not change the locks within 48 hours, you can change the locks and give your landlord the new key within 48 hours. If the person seeking to harm you or a household member is also a tenant on your lease, you need to provide to the landlord a plenary order of protection or plenary civil no contact order granting you exclusive possession of the residence instead of one of the forms of documentation noted above.

Each tenant acknowledges receipt of this Page 1 of this Summary by signing below and should retain a copy for their records. See also and Sign at bottom of p. 2-4.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

3) Your landlord will be liable to you for your actual damages up to $2,000 and reasonable attorney's fees if they disclose to a prospective landlord that you used the Safe Homes Act or share any information you provided when using the Safe Homes Act.

Learn more about the Safe Homes Act (765 ILCS 750) from Illinois Legal Aid at **ilao.info/dvleases**

4) If your landlord tries to evict you, and the eviction is based upon you or a household member experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, you may be able to stop the eviction.

You cannot be evicted solely because:

- You or your household members are a victim of an actual incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking
- You or your household members received threats of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking
- Criminal activity in the form of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking against you or a member of your household
- You did not knowingly consent to a person entering your rental place that the landlord had barred, or if the barred person is permitted by court order to enter your rental place

When asserting any of these defenses to eviction you must provide at least one form of evidence of your status (such as medical, court or police records, or a statement from a victim services organization that you sought help from).

The landlord may still be able to evict you if they prove that your continued presence in your rental place poses an actual and imminent threat to others there.

It is recommended that you seek legal assistance if facing an eviction action.

5) A landlord cannot discriminate against you under the Illinois Human Rights Act because you have an order of protection, a stalking no contact order, or a civil no contact order.

The Illinois Human Rights Act protects against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in housing based on certain protected categories. A housing provider cannot refuse to rent to you, refuse to make repairs, or charge you additional fees because you have protections under any of the above court orders. Possible remedies include your actual damages and attorney's fees. If you are using a federal housing subsidy, you have additional protections under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) (42 U.S.C. Ch. 136, Subchapter III), which prevents housing providers from denying housing due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Each tenant acknowledges receipt of this Page 2 of this Summary by signing below and should retain a copy for their records. See also and Sign at bottom of p. 3-4.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

You can file a charge of housing discrimination with the Illinois Department of Human Rights within one year after the discrimination occurred or with the appropriate circuit court not later than two years from the date of the last discrimination.

For more information on filing a charge of housing discrimination under the Illinois Human Rights Act, visit
dhr.illinois.gov/filing-a-charge/housing

6) Illinois prohibits counties and municipalities from creating or enforcing laws that penalize tenants who are survivors of domestic violence or sexual violence when they (or their landlord) contact police or other emergency services to prevent or respond to this conduct.

Illinois does not allow counties or municipalities to create or enforce laws that penalize tenants for:

(1) Calling the police or emergency services to prevent or respond to domestic violence or sexual violence;
(2) Incidents of domestic or sexual violence against a tenant, their household member, or guest at your rental place; or
(3) Criminal activity at your rental place that is related to domestic violence or sexual violence.

If you are penalized by being evicted, terminated from your housing, or otherwise assessed fees or fines, you may file a complaint in circuit court under Section 1-2-1.5 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5) & Section 5-1005.10 of the Illinois Counties Code (55 ILCS 5)

7) Utility companies are required to defer the initial credit and deposit requirements for a period of 60 days for a residential customer or applicant who is a victim of domestic violence

To exercise this right under Section 8-201.6 of the Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/8-201), provide evidence of the domestic violence from an order of protection, a certifying letter from a medical provider or domestic violence shelter, or law enforcement personnel.

8) Please note that if you apply for or reside in federally subsidized housing there are additional housing rights under the Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Each tenant acknowledges receipt of this Page 3 of this Summary by signing below and should retain a copy for their records. See also and Sign at bottom of p. 4.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Below is a list of free legal service providers:

Ascend Justice – Legal aid organization that provides free legal representation to survivors of gender-based violence who need to break their lease or change their locks under the Safe Homes Act. Go to ascendjustice.org/finances-housing

CARPLS – Legal hotline helps low and moderate-income residents of Cook County with free legal advice and referrals to legal organizations. CARPLS provides assistance to tenants facing eviction; helps survivors with Safe Homes Act letters; and covers private and all types of subsidized housing.

- Go to carpls.org/services/cook-county-hotline
- CARPLS Legal Hotline: (312) 738-9200

Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt Hotline - Provides free legal assistance for tenants facing eviction in Cook County.

- (855) 956-5763.

Eviction Help Illinois – Provides free legal help for Illinois residents facing an eviction.

- Go to evictionhelpillinois.org

Illinois Legal Aid Online – Provides free legal information and resources in English and Spanish, including easy legal forms, sample letters and referrals to legal aid organizations.

- Go to illinoislegalaid.org

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid – Legal aid organization that provides free legal representation to survivors under the Safe Homes Act and has an eviction hotline. Land of Lincoln Legal Aid has five offices and four satellite offices that serve 65 counties throughout central and southern Illinois.

- Go to lincolnlegal.org/apply-for-legal-services
- Eviction Hotline: (855) 601-9474
- Other housing issues, call Legal Advice and Referral Center: (618) 394-7300

Legal Aid Chicago – Legal aid organization that provides free legal representation for low-income renters in Chicago and suburban Cook County. Legal Aid Chicago has a Fair Housing Project and is a HUD enforcement agency. Legal Aid Chicago provides assistance with housing issues including: subsidized housing; breaking a lease or changing locks under the Safe Homes Act; and eviction defense.

- Go to legalaidchicago.org/get-help
- Fair Housing Intake Line: (312) 423-5909

Life Span – Legal aid organization that provides free legal services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault who need to break their lease or change their locks under the Safe Homes Act. Life Span provides services to survivors in Chicago and suburban Cook County.

- Go to life-span.org/get-help
- Legal assistance: (312) 408-1210

North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic – Legal aid organization that provides free legal representation for low-income renters in Lake County and north suburban Cook County who are facing eviction, need to break a lease under the Safe Homes Act, or have other landlord/tenant issues. Go to nslegalaid.org/get-help/housing

Prairie State Legal Services – Provides free legal assistance to survivors under the Safe Homes Act. Prairie State Legal Services has 11 offices located in Bloomington, Galesburg, Joliet, Kankakee, Moline, Ottawa, Peoria, Rockford, Waukegan, West Suburban (West Chicago) and Woodstock.

- Go to pslegal.org/How-To-Get-Started
- Domestic Violence Line: (844) 388-7757

Each tenant acknowledges receipt of this Page 4 of this Summary by signing below and should retain a copy for their records. Sign this last page 4 and keep this summary.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Illinois Residential Lease Agreement

1. Parties and rental home

Landlord / owner name

Landlord phone

Landlord email (optional)

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

Tenant 4 full name

Tenant 4 phone

Tenant 4 email

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Tenant 5 full name

Tenant 5 phone

Tenant 5 email

Tenant 6 full name

Tenant 6 phone

Tenant 6 email

Rental address, unit, city, state and ZIP

Other authorized occupants

Landlord leases the identified premises to the named tenants for residential use. The premises may be occupied by the tenants and their authorized household. Occupancy rules are subject to fair housing protections. Assignment or subletting requires written consent subject to applicable law.

2. Lease term

Start date

End date

The fixed term begins on the stated start date and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the stated end date. A written extension or the landlord's acceptance of new rent for a later period may continue the tenancy. A consensual monthly tenancy continues on applicable lease terms until terminated by legally sufficient notice. If possession cannot be delivered, rent abates until delivery. The tenant retains all applicable termination and refund rights.

3. Rent and payment

Monthly rent ($)

Day due each month

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Payment method and delivery instructions

Returned-payment terms

Rent is payable in advance on the agreed due day. Follow the payment instructions above. The initial partial month's rent is stated separately. A late fee or returned-payment charge applies only to the extent expressly agreed and permitted by applicable law. A change in rent during a monthly tenancy requires proper written notice.

4. Security and move-in payment

Refundable security ($)

Other refundable security ($)

First rental payment ($)

Prorated period, if applicable

Combined initial schedule ($); separate dates may apply

Move-in payment due date

The landlord holds the refundable security deposit for lawful obligations under the lease. Ordinary wear and tear is excluded from damage deductions. The landlord must account for deductions, provide itemized statements and supporting receipts, pay any required interest and return the balance within the deadlines applicable to the property. The deposit does not replace the final rent payment.

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

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

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

Included appliances, services and storage

Each party is responsible for the utilities and services assigned to that party above. The tenant shall arrange service for utilities assigned to the tenant. Any shared-meter or allocation arrangement must be disclosed before the tenant assumes responsibility.

6. Care and maintenance

Maintenance contact and reporting instructions

The parties may record the condition of the premises and any existing damage at delivery of possession. Tenant shall keep the premises sanitary, dispose of waste properly, use appliances and plumbing reasonably and report needed repairs. Landlord remains responsible for duties imposed by applicable law.

Alterations, improvements and waterbeds require the landlord's prior written consent, subject to lawful accommodation rights. No party may store hazardous materials beyond ordinary household products handled safely. Tenant is responsible for damage caused by the wrongful conduct of tenant, household members or guests. Neither party is released from liability for its own negligence.

7. Access

Tenant is entitled to quiet enjoyment. Landlord may enter for inspections, necessary repairs and lawful showings at reasonable times with the notice required by law, except in an emergency or another legally permitted circumstance.

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

8. Animals, smoking and community rules

Pet terms; assistance-animal rights remain protected

An ordinary pet requires prior written authorization and compliance with the agreed pet terms. Assistance animals are handled under applicable fair housing law.

Areas where smoking is allowed or prohibited

Community rules incorporated into the lease

Tenant and guests shall observe lawful written rules for the property, respect neighbors' quiet enjoyment, keep common areas clear and use parking only as authorized.

9. Default, damage and move-out

If fire or another casualty affects occupancy, rent abatement, repair and termination rights are governed by applicable law. A party alleging default must give the notices and opportunities to cure required for that default. Possession may be recovered only by lawful process. On surrender the tenant returns the keys and leaves the premises in the required condition, ordinary wear excepted. Abandoned property must be handled as applicable law requires. Attorney fees may be recovered only when permitted by law.

10. Management and property disclosures

Authorized manager name

Manager mailing address

Owner / agent for service and notices

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Address for service and notices

Use the stated notice addresses for communications under the lease. A statutory notice must be delivered by a method authorized for that notice. Each party shall communicate an updated notice address in writing.

Construction year

Illinois property details

Complete the applicable property information below. Lead questions apply to covered housing built before 1978. Lead details, records and other-condition details apply when those answers are selected. Identify separate documents given directly to each tenant; no upload is needed.

Property

City or community

Illinois county

Rental type

Contacts

Management contact phone

Provide an email contact for management

Management email

Payments

Agreed late charge

Initial late charge in dollars

Agreed grace period in days

Charge for each subsequent unpaid day

Maximum total late charge for one installment

Charge monthly rent for an approved ordinary pet

Ordinary-pet rent included in total monthly rent

Property disclosures

Move-in inventory and inspection arrangements

Tenant initials: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Unresolved unsafe condition or occupancy prohibition

Known lead paint or hazards

Known lead information

Available lead reports or records

Reports supplied to each tenant

Agent acting for landlord

Additional local or property-specific documents

Identify additional documents supplied

Radon disclosure for this unit

Illinois flood disclosure

City and county requirements

Incorporated addenda and document index

The parties shall retain the disclosures and addenda applicable to the rental home. For covered housing built before 1978, supply the required lead hazard information, records and disclosure before the tenant becomes obligated.

Give each applicable separate disclosure before signing. Record existing conditions and keep a copy of the move-in inspection.

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 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

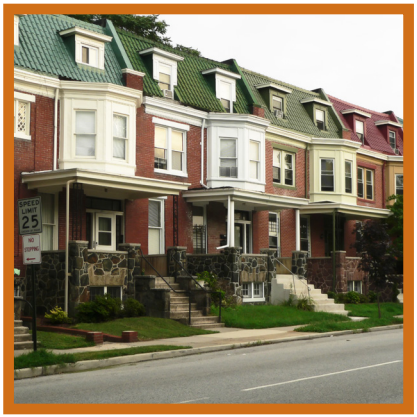
Additional terms

12. Entire agreement

Illinois law and applicable local ordinances govern. This lease and its signed addenda state the parties' agreement. Changes must be agreed in writing. A delay in enforcement does not waive a later breach. Headings are for convenience. Unenforceable provisions are severable. The lease binds lawful successors and assigns. Mortgage priority and recording restrictions are subject to applicable law. Each party may retain a complete signed copy.







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.



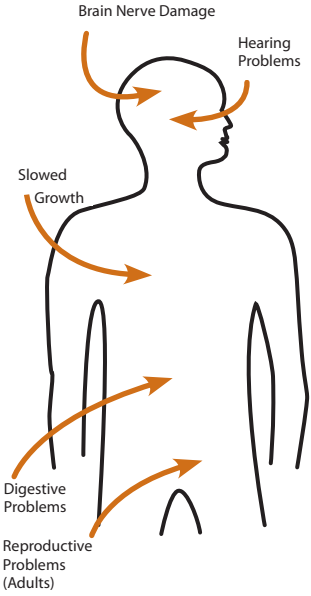
Lead is dangerous to a developing fetus.

- 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.

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* 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

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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

TENANT 4 SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed

Signatures - continued

TENANT 5 SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed

TENANT 6 SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed

Signatures - continued

LANDLORD / OWNER SIGNATURE

Full signature

Date signed