

Additional Information

MaineHousing wants all homeowners, landlords, and residents to be knowledgeable about the hazards of lead poisoning, preventative measures, and how to make their homes safe.

MaineHousing, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP), and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (Maine DHHS) are working together to reduce the risk of lead poisoning for all Maine people.

For more information about how to prevent lead poisoning and live safely with lead paint:

Contact MaineHousing's Energy and Housing Services Division at (800) 452-4668, or go online to www.mainehousing.org.

For information about home lead testing, ways to reduce the hazards of lead paint in renovation and remodeling projects, and a list of licensed lead inspectors:

Call Maine DEP at (800) 452-1942, or go online to www.maine.gov/dep/waste/lead/index.html#ad.

For health questions and information about blood testing, lead safety education, and case management:

Call the Maine DHHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program toll free in Maine at (866) 292-3474, or go online to www.maine.gov/healthyhomes.



Contact the **Community Action Agency** in the county where you live for more information.

Aroostook County Action Program
(207) 768-3023 or (800) 432-7881
Servicing Aroostook County

Cities of Lewiston and Auburn
(207) 739-6575
Servicing Lewiston and Auburn

City of Portland
(207) 874-8983
Servicing Cumberland County

Community Concepts, Inc.
(207) 743-7716 or (800) 866-5588
Servicing Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford, and York counties

Penquis Community Action Program
(207) 973-3500 or (800) 215-4942
Servicing Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties

Maine State Housing Authority ("MaineHousing") does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, age, familial status or receipt of public assistance in the admission or access to or treatment in its programs and activities. In employment, MaineHousing does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability or genetic information. MaineHousing will provide appropriate communication auxiliary aids and services upon sufficient notice. MaineHousing will also provide this document in alternative formats upon sufficient notice. MaineHousing has designated the following person responsible for coordinating compliance with applicable federal and state nondiscrimination requirements and addressing grievances: Louise Patenaude, Maine State Housing Authority, 353 Water Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-4633, Telephone Number 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only), (207) 626-4600 (voice) or Maine Relay 711.



 **MaineHousing**
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330-4633

207-626-4600
1-800-452-4668
(1-877-544-3271)
Fax 207-626-4652
Maine Relay 711



Revised July 2018
© 2006 MaineHousing

Lead Poisoning: Questions and Answers

MaineHousing Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program



 **MaineHousing**
Maine State Housing Authority

www.mainehousing.org

Should I be worried about lead-based paint?

- ▶ Yes, exposure to lead-based paint may be harmful to you and your family.
- ▶ Lead-based paint is found in a significant number of homes in Maine built before 1978.
- ▶ Lead is especially toxic to children under six years old. 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. It is important to know that even exposure to low levels of lead can severely harm children. Elevated blood-lead levels in young children have been linked to learning and behavioral disabilities, hyperactivity, developmental delays, hearing problems, and headaches.
- ▶ Lead is toxic to adults, too. Exposure to lead can result in difficult pregnancies (with developmental damage to the fetus), high blood pressure, nerve and digestive disorders, memory and concentration problems, and joint and muscle pain.
- ▶ Lead can even be fatal if ingested in large enough quantities.

If you have lead-based paint that is in good condition in your home, it may not pose a serious hazard.

However...

If painted surfaces are worn, chipped, or flaking, they may create lead dust and chips.

- ▶ Doors and windows painted with lead-based paint may create dust every time they are opened or closed.
- ▶ Lead dust is a health risk when it is inhaled or when it settles on household surfaces. If young children put their hands on those surfaces and then put their hands in their mouths, they may be ingesting lead.

Lead dust is a health risk for everyone in your home

- ▶ Remodeling and repair projects may create serious household lead poisoning risks. A large number of all lead poisoned children in Maine live in homes that have been renovated, or are currently being renovated.
- ▶ It is very important that home repairs in areas with lead-based paint be done safely and correctly. You can minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing, or painting by hiring an EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) certified 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 permanently, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement (or permanent hazard elimination) methods include removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Just painting over the hazard with regular paint is not permanent control.
- ▶ Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house.
Improper removal of lead paint can poison you and your children!

Surfaces painted with lead-based paint should be inspected regularly. If you rent your home, be sure to report peeling, chipping and/or paint in poor condition to your landlord.

For detailed information about how to safely repair or repaint surfaces painted with lead-based paint, call the Maine Department of Environmental Protection at (800) 452-1942, or go online to www.maine.gov/dep/waste/lead/index.html#ad.

Multi-Family and Single-Family Loans and Grants

MaineHousing works with participating Community Action Agencies to provide funding to multi-family and single-family households that meet certain requirements:

- ▶ Those at or below 80% of the area median income
- ▶ Those with children younger than six years of age
- ▶ Those living in a home built before 1978

MaineHousing provides up to \$16,000 to eligible owner occupied single-family homeowners, and up to \$10,000 per unit with a 10 unit maximum per landlord for lead safety improvements. For landlords, the entire amount of the deferred forgivable loan is forgiven after 3 years, provided the property isn't refinanced or sold during that time and rental units are reserved for low-income tenants.

Homeowner eligibility: If you own a single-family home that was built before 1978, your income is at or below 80% of the area median income, and you have a child under age six years old living at home, you may be eligible. Priority is given to families whose children under age six years old test positive for elevated lead levels in their blood.

Landlord eligibility: If you own a multi-family rental property that serves low-income households and that was developed before 1978, you may be eligible, provided that the rental units have at least one bedroom, half of the rental units are rented to tenants with household incomes of less than 80% of the area median income and half to tenants with household incomes less than 50% of the area median income. The rental units must be kept affordable for three years.

How do I apply?

Please contact the regional Community Action Agency closest to you from the list on the back of this brochure to find out if you're eligible.