

Additional Information

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. Find more information by contacting the organizations below.

Prevent lead poisoning/live safely with lead paint:

MaineHousing Energy & Housing Services:
(800) 452-4668
mainehousing.org/lead

Home lead testing, reducing lead paint hazards when renovating and remodeling, and a list of licensed lead inspectors:

Maine DEP: (800) 452-1942
maine.gov/dep/waste/lead/index.html#ad

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

Maine DHHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: (866) 292-3474
maine.gov/healthyhomes

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Contact the organization in the city or county where you live for more information.

Aroostook County Action Program Serving Aroostook County	(207) 768-3023 (800) 432-7881
City of Auburn Serving Auburn	(207) 333-6601
City of Biddeford Serving Biddeford	(207) 284-9115 Option #6
City of Lewiston Serving Lewiston	(207) 513-3126
City of Portland Serving Cumberland County	(207) 874-8983
Community Concepts, Inc.	207 743-7716 (800) 866-5588

Serving Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. Augusta, Chelsea, Farmingdale, Fayette, Gardiner, Hallowell, Litchfield, Manchester, Monmouth, Pittston, Randolph, Readfield, Wayne, West Gardiner, Windsor, and Winthrop.

Penquis Community Action Program	(207) 973-3500 or (800) 215-4942
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Serving Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties. Albion, Belgrade, Benton, China, Clinton, Mount Vernon, Oakland, Rome, Sidney, Vassalboro, Vienna, Waterville, and Winslow.

York County Communiy Action Corp Serving York county	(207) 324-5762 (800) 965-5762
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mainehousing.org/lead

207-626-4600 | 1-800-452-4668
Fax 207-626-4652 | Maine Relay 711



Lead Paint Hazard Remediation Programs

Get help with your
lead abatement
costs



A Healthy Home is Key

Find out if you qualify at
MaineHousing.org/lead

 **MaineHousing**
MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY



Lead Paint & Your Home

Yes. Lead-based paint may be harmful to you and your family. Lead-based paint is in many Maine homes built before 1978.

Lead is very toxic to children under six years old. At this age, children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to lead's damaging effects. Their growing bodies absorb more lead. Even low lead exposure can harm children. Elevated lead levels in young children are linked to learning and behavioral disabilities, hyperactivity, developmental delays, hearing problems, and headaches.

Lead is also toxic to adults. Exposure can result in difficult pregnancies (and developmental damage to the fetus), high blood pressure, nerve and digestive disorders, memory and concentration problems, and joint and muscle pain.

Lead can be fatal if ingested in large enough quantities. Lead-based paint may not pose serious hazards if it is in good condition. However, worn, chipped, or flaking painted surfaces 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. Anyone may ingest lead by putting their hands on those surfaces and then in their mouths.



Lead Dust & Renovations

Remodeling and repair projects may create serious lead poisoning risks. Many lead-poisoned children live in homes that were or are being renovated. Disturbing or removing lead-based paint the wrong way can increase lead hazards to your family. This often spreads even more lead dust around the house.

Home repair in areas with lead-based paint must be done safely and correctly. Learn how to renovate your home in a lead-safe way when doing the work yourself. Hiring a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency certified or state-certified renovator may help minimize lead exposure when renovating, repairing, or painting your home. They are trained in lead-safe practices.

Hire a certified lead abatement contractor to permanently remove lead hazards. Abatement (permanently getting rid of the lead) includes removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Painting over the hazard with regular paint is not permanent control.

Regularly check surfaces painted with lead-based paint. If you rent your home, report peeling, chipping, or paint that is in poor condition to your landlord.

For more 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 visit maine.gov/dep/waste/lead/



Funding for Lead Removal

MaineHousing works with Community Action Agencies to fund multifamily and single-family households that meet certain requirements.

Homeowner eligibility: You may be eligible for up to \$16,000 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 six years old living in the home.

MaineHousing's program prioritizes families whose children under six years old test positive for elevated lead levels in their blood.

Landlord eligibility: You may be eligible for \$10,000 per unit with a maximum of funding for 10 units per building. The property must serve low-income households and must have been built before 1978. The rental units must have at least one bedroom and are subject to additional tenant income requirements. The rental units must be kept affordable and the property may not be refinanced or sold for three years post-abatement.

