

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

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

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

City of Biddeford
(207) 284-9115 Option #6
Serving Biddeford

City of Lewiston
(207) 739-6575
Serving Lewiston

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

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

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

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Lead Poisoning Information & Help

Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program



mainehousing.org/lead

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



 **MaineHousing**



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.

Owner Materials Reimbursement Program: Owners who are active licensed lead abatement contractors may apply for a cost of materials reimbursement needed to complete lead abatement. MaineHousing allows up to \$5,000 per unit. Contact MaineHousing for more information.

Apply for funding by contacting the organization closest to you from the back of this brochure.