

How Should My Landlord Protect Me and My Family?

Lead Paint Disclosure

Your landlord must tell you in writing at initial leasing if there is any known lead-based paint at the property. You should have received a copy of Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home. This booklet contains information that every tenant should know.

Written Notice of Work to Be Done

If you live in a multiple dwelling (3 or more units) built before 1978, your landlord must provide you a written notice letting you know when and where work is going to be performed. The landlord must notify you whether you need to leave while the work is being performed.

Use of Lead-Safe Building Maintenance Practices during Performance of Work

If you live in a multiple dwelling (3 or more units) built before 1978, your landlord must protect you and your belongings during the performance of any repair or maintenance activities. The work site must be cleaned up at the end of each work day and at the end of the job.

Quick Response to Complaints of Defective Paint

If you live in a multiple dwelling (3 or more units) built before 1978, your landlord must respond to your complaints of defective paint right away but no later than 30 days from the date you told your landlord the problem. If a child under 6 or pregnant woman lives in the apartment with the problem, the landlord must fix it within one week or less.

For more information contact:



**NJ Department of Community Affairs
Division of Housing and Community Resources
Lead Hazard Control Assistance Program
101 South Broad Street, PO Box 811
Trenton, NJ 08625-0811**

1-877-DCA-LEAD (1-877-322-5323)
www.leadsafenj.org

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Living Safely with Lead

What Every Tenant Needs to Know

**Department of Community Affairs
Lead Hazard Control Assistance Program**



**State of New Jersey
Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor**

**Department of Community Affairs
Lori Grifa, Commissioner**

What Is Lead?

Lead is a highly toxic (poisonous) metal that was used for many years in products found in and around our home.

What Is Lead Poisoning and its Effects?

Lead poisoning occurs when high concentrations of lead are found in blood levels. In children, this can result in hyperactivity, learning or behavioral problems. Adults also can suffer from lead poisoning. These effects can include increased blood pressure, digestive problems and muscle and joint problems.

Where is Lead Typically Found?

Lead can be found in paint, soil, household dust, drinking water, plastic toys, pottery, and foods and in folk remedies.

The most common place to find lead is in house paint in houses built before 1978. When lead-based paint peels, cracks, chips or flakes, it can mix with household dust. Dust accumulates in large amounts in window wells and floors.

How Can I Protect Myself and My Family?

Keep your home free of lead dust and follow the cleaning tips in this brochure.



Cleaning Tips

Every week you should:

- Wipe doors, mantels, molding and any other places that dirt or dust collect.
- Vacuum your entire home using a vacuum with a HEPA filter.
- Mop all of your floors.
- Clean all of your windows.

Wash Hands Frequently

Always wash your hands before eating. Children should be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and warm water every time before they eat and after they play. Hand washing prevents lead particles from being ingested.

Nutrition

Eating healthy foods at least 3 times a day will help your child absorb less lead into their bodies. Children need 3 healthy meals a day – plus healthy snacks. Give your child a choice of fruits, vegetables, meats and beans, grains (at least half should be whole grains) and calcium-rich foods. Limit fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium) and added sugars. Serve lean, low-fat or fat free items when possible. Bake, broil, or poach instead of frying.

Read Notices

If you live in a multiple dwelling (3 or more units) built before 1978, your landlord should notify you of any maintenance being done to your apartment and/or common areas. Your landlord should tell you when and where the work is going to be performed. The landlord should notify you whether you need to leave while the work is being performed.

Tips For Mopping Your Floors

- A mop with a cotton mop head is best to clean your floors.
- You should have three buckets – one with cleanser and water, one with clean rinse water and a third to wring out your mop.
- Be sure to change your rinse water regularly by emptying the bucket into your toilet, not a sink, tub or storm drain.
- Repeat mopping if necessary, using the same tips.

Report Defective Paint

Report any findings of all deteriorated paint to your landlord as soon as possible, so that any problems can be corrected promptly. Also report other conditions that may cause deterioration of paint like roof and plumbing leaks.

Test Your Child for Lead

The only way to know for sure if a child has lead poisoning is to have a blood test by your child's doctor.

Many doctors' offices can perform a simple test using only a few drops of blood from your child's finger.

By NJ law, all children must be tested for lead at:

- 9-12 months. Best at 1 year.
- 18-26 months. Best at 2 years.

Any child under the age of 6, who has never been tested, should be tested **immediately**.

Tips for Cleaning Your Windows

- Use one cloth per window.
- Wash the glass first, then wash the window wells.

If your window well is very dirty, wipe it out with a damp paper towel first, then wipe it out with your cleaning solution and cloth.

