

Child Care Lead Poisoning Prevention Checklist

This checklist is to help child care providers determine if lead may be present in their environment. This is not an exhaustive list. To be sure, a consultation with a certified Lead Risk Assessor may be required.

- Was your child care built before 1978? If so, is there any chipping paint, recent remodeling, bare soil, outdoor gardening spaces, or paint on old play structures?
- Was your child care built before 1986? If so, has your water been tested for lead?
- Is your child care located near a historically busy roadway, orchard land, within 1.5km (about 1 mile) of a small airport, or within the Everett smelter site footprint?
- Do you any antique toys, games, or furniture? If so, have you had them checked for lead? Are any toys older than 2007 on the CPSC list of recalled toys?
- Do you use any imported spices or candies, imported glazed pottery, or imported cookware?
- Does anyone who lives or works at the child care have hobbies or other jobs that expose them to lead? This could include working with stained glass, fishing, shooting, or remodeling work.

If you check any of the boxes above, please contact our team. We would love to consult with your child care.

Simple Things that Help Prevent Lead Poisoning

Paint	Dust	Soil	Water	Work & Hobbies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use lead certified contractors • Remodel safely • Watch for chipping paint, especially pre-1978 • Maintain paint • Check older painted toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use lead certified remodelers • Use a HEPA filter vacuum daily • Damp mop daily • Damp dust with a microfibre cloth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands • Cover bare soil • Use raised bed gardens • Use organic soil for gardening • No shoes inside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush tap until water runs cold (at least 30 seconds) • Cook/make bottles with cold water only • Test water for lead • Use water filters • Clean screen and aerators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep contaminated shoes/clothes out of child care space • Wash hands • Keep lead-based activities away from play areas/licensed space

The Child Care Health Outreach program offers consultations and DCYF-approved health and safety training to child care providers in Snohomish County. We encourage providers to take advantage of these services to improve the health and safety of children in their care.



Lead Risks in Child Care

What child care providers should know



SNOHOMISH COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER SNOHOMISH COUNTY

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Lead and Children

Childhood lead exposure can have serious effects on health and brain development. Even small amounts during critical periods can lower IQ, cause hearing problems, and result in behavioral and learning difficulties.

Use of lead in gasoline and in paints manufactured before 1978 has contaminated the environment. Children can get lead poisoning from ingesting or inhaling lead. **There is no safe level of lead.** A blood test is the only way to know if a child has been exposed.

Exposure can come from many sources:



Lead paint chips. These taste sweet and children may eat them.



Lead dust from wear and tear on lead-painted surfaces.



Soil can be contaminated by chipping paint, lead from smelter projects, or leaded gasoline.



Drinking water, from lead pipes, fixtures, or solder.



Jobs or hobbies with lead-based projects. Adults may bring home lead dust on clothing or shoes.

Some products from other countries may contain lead (cookware, home remedies, spices). Vinyl mini-blinds, pottery, and art materials may have a significant amount. Older or foreign-made toys can contain lead in the plastic or paint. Check the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website for recalled items (www.cpsc.gov).



No-Cost Consultations to Learn More About Lead

Snohomish County Health Department staff can visit your child care to provide more information about lead and young children. This educational opportunity is available at no cost to all Snohomish County child care and early learning programs.

To schedule a consultation, please contact us at:

shd.childcarehealth@co.snohomish.wa.us

425-252-5415

Hire a Certified Professional

The Washington State Department of Commerce certifies professionals who work on pre-1978 homes or facilities with children. You can learn more about the Lead-Based Paint Program or find a certified contractor online:

www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/housing/lead-based-paint/

Test Drinking Water

Child cares are required by WAC 110-300-0235 to have lead testing done on all fixtures from which they get water for drinking, cooking, or preparing food and baby bottles. **Testing is needed at least every 6 years.** Please contact us for information on proper testing, certified labs, and resources to help.

Encourage Child Testing

All children should be screened for lead when they are 1 and 2 years old. Encourage parents to speak with their child's health care provider about testing

Contact us for informational posters.

Test Buildings for Lead

Test any paint that may have been applied before 1978 and is now chipping, peeling, or bubbling. Even if the top layer is newer, older layers may contain lead.

Paint samples should be sent to a laboratory to determine the level of lead. Soil in areas near chipping paint should also be tested.



Results from home test kits may not be as reliable as those from a laboratory.

Hire a professional to assess the building for lead hazards. A lead risk assessor can also provide information on the risks and how to fix them.

Before remodeling, make sure no lead paint is present. Remodeling can produce a large amount of lead dust that settles in nooks and crannies. This is very difficult to remove.