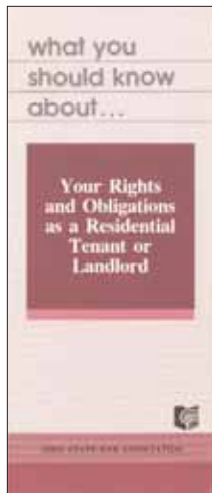


Public Health Lead Investigations



Please contact the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Ohio Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 1-877-668-5323 if you need a Lead Funding Resource Guide for your county.

Ohio Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

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ODH Public Health Lead Investigations

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Ohio Department of Health

Bureau of Child and Family Health Services

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

246 North High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-5332

1-877 NOT-LEAD

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov>

bcfhs@odh.ohio.gov

What is a Public Health Lead Investigation?

When a child under 6 years of age has lead poisoning, the local or state health department may assess the child's home, school or day care. The investigation is done to find the lead hazard source that is harming the child. The investigator will:

- 1) Ask questions about the lead-poisoned child's surroundings and behavior.
- 2) Look around all areas of the home to find chipping or peeling paint.
- 3) Take samples from the floor, window sills and bare outside soil.
- 4) Use an instrument to find lead-based paint. People should not be near when it is in use.
- 5) Gather notes and draw a floor plan of the building(s).
- 6) Take pictures of the home.



What happens after the investigation?

The investigator will send all samples to a lab. The investigator will write a report that includes the results of the investigation. It takes about two to three weeks to compile the report. A copy of the report will be sent to the parent and the property owner. The property owner will **not** receive any information about the lead poisoned child.



If lead hazards are found, the property owner will receive a lead hazard control order, requiring the lead hazards to be controlled by a licensed lead abatement contractor. You can get a list of licensed lead abatement contractors by calling 1-877-668-5323 or by visiting the following Web site, <http://www.odh.ohio.gov>.

Should I repair chipping and peeling paint?

Any work done to repair these areas may make the problem worse and create a greater hazard for the lead poisoned child. Any repairs made after a child has been found to have lead poisoning MUST be done by a licensed lead abatement contractor.



Do I have to be home during the investigation?

At least one adult must be present when the investigation is conducted.

How long does it take to perform an investigation?

Most investigations will take about four hours, maybe longer if the property has more than one building.



Who will perform the investigation?

A staff person from the state or local health department will perform the investigation. This person is trained and licensed and should be able to show proper ID upon request. A case manager or nurse may also be present.

Do I need to move from my home?

No. You may stay in your home, unless a doctor says that you should move to protect the child from further hazards. In this case,

you should plan to stay somewhere else until the lead source is found and removed. If lead hazards are found during the investigation, the lead hazards must be controlled by a licensed lead abatement contractor within 45 days.

If the property owner fails to complete this work, the tenants may be forced to move. If you rent your property or own rental property, refer to the pamphlet *What You Should Know About Your Rights and Obligations as a Residential Tenant or Landlord* included with this brochure for more information.



What can I do to help limit contact with lead?

You may use a HEPA vacuum to clean the floors, drapes and furniture. Many local programs loan the HEPA vacuum for free. To obtain the phone number of the program nearest you, contact 1-877-668-5323 or visit our Web site at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov>.

You can also perform limited cleaning using a two-bucket method (see the *Step-by-Step Cleaning to Control Lead Dust in Your Home* pamphlet). Keep your child away from chipping and peeling paint and wash the child's hands often. Once you receive a report about the sources of lead, keep the child away from those sources and keep the child away from any work taking place on the property.

