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This brochure is to inform certified lead-based paint professionals of requirements to use EPA-recognized (NLLAP) laboratories for analysis of samples collected in residential housing and child occupied facilities.

### **Testing for Lead?**

There are two important considerations to achieve accurate lead measurements. The first is the collection of appropriate samples. EPA, numerous states and tribes have established programs to certify inspectors and risk assessors so collection of paint chip, dust and soil samples will be performed according to current standards. To obtain additional information about current requirements for collection of paint, dust, or soil samples, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD or visit Internet site [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

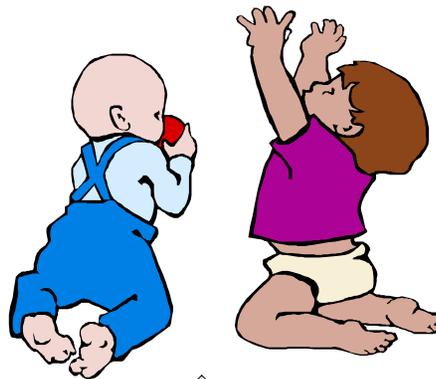
The second aspect of an accurate measurement takes place in the laboratory. EPA has established the **National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP)** to recognize laboratories that demonstrate the ability to accurately analyze paint chip, dust or soil samples for lead. A laboratory may choose to be recognized for one, two, or all three of these types of samples.

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Many states and tribes have developed requirements for lead-based paint activities and have received authorization to implement their programs from EPA. The majority of these states and tribes require the use of **NLLAP-recognized laboratories** for analyzing paint, dust, or soil samples collected during risk assessments, lead hazard screens, and inspections covered by their programs.

In states and tribes that do not have an EPA authorized program by March 1, 2000, EPA will administer a federal program with requirements for the conduct of lead-based paint activities and the use of **NLLAP-recognized laboratories**.

For additional information about what is required in your locality, or who to contact about requirements in any states or tribal lands where you plan to offer testing services, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.



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### **How Does NLLAP Work?**

The NLLAP has been established by EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. NLLAP provides the public with a list of laboratories that have met EPA requirements and demonstrated the capability to accurately analyze paint chip, dust, or soil samples for lead. All laboratories recognized by NLLAP are required to undergo on-site audits conducted by accrediting organizations participating in the NLLAP, and to perform successfully on a continuing basis in the Environmental Lead Proficiency Testing (ELPAT) Program. ELPAT is a proficiency testing program established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), EPA, and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

Currently, EPA recognizes the AIHA and the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) as accreditation organizations participating in the NLLAP laboratories audit process. To learn about a specific laboratory's past performance or complaint history, contact AIHA at (703) 849-8888 or A2LA at (301) 644-3200.

# Selecting a Laboratory for Lead Analysis: The EPA National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program



United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
(7404)  
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use  
\$300



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## How Can I Get a List of EPA-Recognized Laboratories and Further Information on Lead?

*To obtain a current list of laboratories recognized by the EPA NLLAP (“The NLLAP List”), call The National Lead Information Center toll free at 1-800-424-LEAD or visit the Internet site [www.leadlisting.org](http://www.leadlisting.org).*

*Additional information on EPA’s program to reduce lead hazards may also be found at the Internet site [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).*

