

## Lead Awareness Curriculum Sessions Frequently Asked Questions

*This document contains answers to the questions most frequently asked during the **Understanding Lead and Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer** educational sessions. It was developed as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Lead Awareness initiative.*

The questions have been organized into the following categories:

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### Lead Exposure

#### 1. Where can lead be found?

Lead can be found in all parts of our environment – the air, the soil, the water and even inside our homes. Much of our exposure comes from human activities including the use of fossil fuels, past use of leaded gasoline, some types of industrial facilities and past use of lead-based paint in homes. Lead and lead compounds have been used in a wide variety of products found in and around our homes, including paint, ceramics, pipes and plumbing materials, solder, batteries, ammunition, fishing tackle, cosmetics and many other products. Federal and state regulatory standards have helped to reduce the amount of lead in air, drinking water, soil, consumer products, food, and occupational settings.

#### 2. Other than paint in older (pre-1978) homes, what other sources of lead exposure should we be concerned about?

One of the most common ways children can be exposed to lead is through contact with lead-based paint chips and dust in buildings and homes that have lead-based paint when they put toys, fingers and other objects in their mouths as part of their normal behavior. Lead has been used in a wide variety of products and can be found in places both inside and outside of the home. This includes soil, drinking water, toys, food, cosmetics and imported spices and pottery. An adult's exposure to lead may increase depending on their job(s), hobbies and/or their use of home/folk remedies or cosmetics that contain lead. For instance, an adult may be exposed to lead at a gun range if they engage in sport shooting. These activities can also cause lead dust or soil to get onto skin, hair and clothing, which can then be transferred to the interior of a car or home, creating additional lead exposure for the rest of the family.

### 3. What has the U.S. done to prevent exposure to lead from products like food, toys, pottery, spices, etc.?

#### Does the government screen and test products before they reach the market?

Congress has passed several laws related to lead. These laws address lead in paint, dust and soil; lead in the air; lead in water; and disposal of lead waste. As a result, these laws limit the amount of lead that can be in products, outdoor air, emissions from some industrial sources, waste waters and more.

Lead has been found in consumer products imported into the U.S. from other countries. To reduce the risk of lead exposure from consumer products, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) sets limits on the amount of lead that can be in toys and other items intended to be used by children. CPSC also issues recalls of current products that could potentially expose children to lead. Search for recalls at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issues [recalls, market withdrawals, and safety alerts for foods](#) and related products that may contain lead and is responsible for setting limits for the amount of lead allowed in food, foodware, dietary supplements and cosmetics. The FDA tests food for arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury to monitor the safety of the U.S. food supply, enforce FDA regulations and inform the agency's guidance to industry and its advice to consumers. Testing can be targeted to a specific category of food, such as foods commonly eaten by children under 2 years of age, or to a specific food or food group. FDA testing is sometimes conducted in response to reports of elevated contaminant levels in certain foods. Testing may occur at FDA laboratories, laboratories FDA contracts with, or at state laboratories as part of FDA's [cooperative agreements](#) with states. Sources: [FDA – Lead in Food and Foodwares](#) and [CDC – Lead in Consumer Products](#).

For more information about the roles that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), EPA and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) play in reducing and preventing lead exposure, visit the webpages of [HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes](#), [CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#) or [EPA's Lead-based Paint Program](#).

### 4. Other than paint and the other sources mentioned during *Understanding Lead*, what is another potential source of lead exposure in my home that I can take action to reduce?

Lead dust traps (spaces or objects where lead dust can easily gather on, in or under) are another source of lead exposure in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities. Many areas in the home could be potential lead dust traps, including floors, baseboards, carpets, rugs, windows, windowsills, air duct covers, radiators, doors, doorframes, walls and other painted surfaces such as stairs, railings, bannisters and furniture. Wet washing weekly with a damp mop, cloth or sponge, water and a general all-purpose cleaner is the best way to clean up lead dust.

### 5. What is the most common source of lead exposure in our homes?

The most common source of lead exposure in homes is from deteriorated lead-based paint, which was used inside and outside many homes built before 1978, and in other buildings and steel structures that may be nearby or adjacent to homes. Children can be exposed to lead by swallowing or breathing in lead dust created by old paint that has cracked or chipped, eating paint chips or chewing on surfaces coated with lead dust and/or lead-based paint such as windowsills. When lead-based paint is in good condition and is not on a surface subject to impacts or friction, like a window, the paint is usually not a hazard.

## Health

### 1. What are the signs to look for to know if a child has been exposed to lead or has lead poisoning?

A blood lead test is the best way to know if a child has lead poisoning. A child with lead poisoning may not have visible signs or symptoms. In fact, many children who have lead poisoning look and act healthy. Consequently, many cases of childhood lead poisoning go undiagnosed and untreated. Some symptoms of lead poisoning like headaches, stomachaches, nausea, tiredness and irritability are also symptoms of flu and other viruses. Source: [EPA - What You Need to Know About Lead Poisoning](#) and [CDC – Lead Exposure Symptoms and Complications](#) and also [ATSDR – Lead \(Pb\) Toxicity Case Study: Clinical Assessment - Signs and Symptoms](#).

### 2. Why is there no known safe level of exposure to lead?

There is no known safe level of exposure to lead because even small amounts of lead in children's blood can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia.

### 3. Could lead also impact my pet's health?

Like humans, ingestion of lead can also impact wildlife species, such as birds, amphibians and mammals, including our pets. Animals can be exposed to lead from numerous sources, including mining, emissions from industrial facilities and lead-based paint. Research indicates the ingestion of lead fishing tackle and spent lead ammunition are two of the major sources of exposure to lead in wildlife. Lead exposure and lead poisoning in mammals can result in vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy and uncoordinated body movements. Repeated exposure to lead over time can result in anemia, convulsions, blindness, coma or death. After ingesting lead, birds may show behavioral changes such as unsteady legs, droopy wings, accidents when trying to land and, in more severe cases, blindness and the inability to hold up their head. Other symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea and an impaired ability to fly. In amphibians, such as toads and frogs, exposure to lead can result in an increase in skin shedding, sluggishness and decreased muscle tone. While a pet's source of exposure is mostly the same as a human, pets can also be exposed from self-grooming activities.

### 4. What is the worst-case scenario if a child gets exposed to lead?

In children, exposure to lead can cause lifelong health impacts. Even small amounts of lead in children's blood can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia. In rare cases, high amounts of lead can cause seizures, coma, and in some cases, even death.

### 5. Will the recommendation of testing children under 6 years of age for lead be increased to include older children?

Currently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has no plans to increase the age(s) at which it recommends blood lead tests for children. The CDC requires blood lead tests for children at ages 12 and 24 months who receive Medicaid and children between ages 24 and 72 months who receive Medicaid and have no record of a blood lead test. The CDC also recommends blood lead tests for children ages 12 and 24 months living in areas that are higher risk or who belong to populations that are higher risk, children or other family members who have been exposed to lead and children who should be tested under their state or local health screening plan. Source: [CDC - Testing for Lead Poisoning in Children](#).

## 6. What do blood lead level and blood lead reference value mean? Why is the blood lead reference value important?

The amount of lead in blood is referred to as the blood lead level, which is measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ). Blood lead reference value (BLRV) is the level at which a child has more lead in their blood than do most U.S. children and is used as a guide to determine appropriate follow-up actions. As of 2024, CDC is using a BLRV of 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  to identify children with blood lead levels that are higher than most children's levels. BLRV is based on the 97.5th percentile of the blood lead values among U.S. of children ages 1-5 years from the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) cycles. Children with blood lead levels at or above the BLRV are among the top 2.5% of U.S. children with the highest blood lead levels.

If a child has lead in their blood above the CDC BLRV, their doctor may recommend follow-up services. These include finding and removing lead from the child's environment, feeding the child a diet high in iron and calcium, connecting the child to early educational services, and scheduling follow-up blood testing. Early identification of lead in the blood is key to reducing the long-term effects of lead exposure.

CDC Sources: [Testing for Lead Poisoning in Children](#), [Blood lead reference value](#) and [CDC Updates Blood Lead Reference Value](#).

## 7. Is there a cure for lead poisoning?

There is no cure for lead poisoning, but parents and caregivers can help reduce the harmful effects of lead exposure by talking to a child's healthcare provider and getting connected to learning, nutritional and behavioral programs as soon as possible. This is why preventing exposure to lead, especially among children, is important. Finding and removing sources of lead from a child's environment is needed to prevent further exposure. For more information on follow-up and case management for children with lead in their blood, refer to CDC's [Recommended Actions Based on Blood Lead Level](#).

## 8. What happens when lead gets absorbed?

Once a child swallows lead, their blood lead level rises and once a child's exposure to lead stops, the amount of lead in the blood decreases gradually. A child's body will release some of the absorbed lead through urine, sweat and feces. Lead is also stored in bones, and it can take decades for lead stored in the bones to decrease.

Many different things can affect how a child's body will handle exposure to lead, including their age, nutritional status, the source(s) of lead exposure, length of time the child was exposed and presence of other underlying health conditions.

Although lead in blood represents only a portion of the total amount of lead present in the body, [a blood lead test](#) is the best way to assess a person's exposure to lead. Source: [ATSDR - What is the Biological Fate of Lead in the Body?](#)

## 9. Can lead cause cancer?

Several government agencies and organizations in the U.S. and other countries have reviewed studies and assessed whether lead can cause cancer.

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has determined that lead and lead compounds are reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens (causing cancer in people).
- The U.S. EPA has classified lead as a probable human carcinogen.
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that inorganic lead is probably carcinogenic to humans, and that there is insufficient information to determine whether organic lead compounds will cause cancer in humans.

Source: Source: Source: [ATSDR – Lead - ToxFAQs™](#)

## Actions to Reduce Lead Exposure

### 1. Why do you recommend using only cold water for drinking, cooking and preparing baby formula?

EPA recommends drinking, cooking and preparing baby formula only with water that comes out of the tap cold. Water that comes out of the tap warm or hot can have higher levels of lead as lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

### 2. Can a diet high in calcium, iron and vitamin C completely prevent a child's body from absorbing lead?

No. Eating a healthy diet and especially a diet high in calcium, iron and vitamin C may help reduce the absorption of lead in the body. Many different things can affect how a child's body will handle exposure to lead, including their age, nutritional status, the source(s) of lead exposure, length of time the child was exposed and presence of other underlying health conditions.

### 3. Flushing the pipes or running the tap before drinking, especially after the water has been sitting for several hours, is a common recommendation to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. The recommended duration for flushing varies widely, ranging from 30 seconds to 5 minutes. What is the best guidance on how long a tap should be flushed before drinking?

The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time recommended to run the water (flush the pipes) will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, the length of the lead service line and the amount of plumbing in your home. Because flushing times vary, you should contact your water utility for recommendations on flushing times in your community.

### 4. Is there a list of water filters certified to remove lead?

EPA does not have a list of water filters certified to remove lead. When purchasing a filter, whether used in filtration systems attached directly to the faucet, inserted into refrigerators with water dispensers and ice makers or inserted into water pitchers and bottles, look for a certifier's mark and text that claims the filter reduces lead. For detailed information on identifying drinking water filters certified to reduce lead, review EPA's [A Consumer Tool for Identifying Point of Use \(POU\) Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead](#).

## Lead Awareness Curriculum

### 1. When was the Lead Awareness Curriculum published?

The original English version of the *Lead Awareness Curriculum* was published in October 2020 and the Spanish version was published in November 2022. EPA has developed additional materials that can be downloaded from <https://www.epa.gov/lead/tribal-lead-curriculum#newresources> and <https://espanol.epa.gov/plomo/concientizacion-sobre-el-plomo#nuevo>.

### 2. What is the amount of time recommended to present each of the modules? Is that up to us?

The Curriculum is designed to be a flexible tool that allows you to plan and deliver messages within each of the four modules to fit your community and participant's needs. While it was designed to be delivered in sequential order, the modules may be used individually, in a different order or as abbreviated versions of the originals. We recommend starting with *Module 1: Understanding Lead* since it is an introduction and contains information covered in more detail in the other three modules. As you begin preparing your session(s) and become more familiar with the materials we encourage you to think through meaningful ways to customize the presentations and topics covered by adding relevant local stories, information, images and videos. Make sure to remove any slides you do not plan to use. The approximate times to cover all the information in each of the modules is as follows:

- Module 1: Understanding Lead - 70 minutes
- Module 2: Effective Cleaning Techniques - 60 minutes
- Module 3: Personal Hygiene and Nutrition - 60 minutes
- Module 4: Hiring Certified Lead Professionals - 75 minutes

We recommend adding in another 15 minutes to allow plenty of time for questions. Additionally, we published a [45-minute version of Module 1: Understanding Lead](#), which can be found on our website.

### 3. Can I edit the "Actions to Reduce Potential Lead Exposure Infographic" since some of the actions may not be relevant to my audience?

The "Actions to Reduce Potential Lead Exposure Infographic" is provided in .jpg format and cannot be edited. However, when using this infographic, you can choose to emphasize the actions that are most relevant to your audience, including deleting the phrases of actions not relevant to your audience from the slide in the *Understanding Lead* presentation. You can find both the English and Spanish infographic on the USB, or you may download them here:

- English - [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/styles/medium/public/2020-09/infographic\\_final\\_highresolution.jpg?itok=UIpMxnFs](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/styles/medium/public/2020-09/infographic_final_highresolution.jpg?itok=UIpMxnFs)
- Spanish - [https://espanol.epa.gov/system/files/styles/large/private/images/2022-11/infografica\\_espanol.jpg?itok=zArb7hHq](https://espanol.epa.gov/system/files/styles/large/private/images/2022-11/infografica_espanol.jpg?itok=zArb7hHq).

**4. Can we use the Curriculum sessions as an opportunity to warn people about certain food sources that are often found to be contaminated with lead (e.g., chapulines (grasshopper in Spanish), baby food, etc.)?**

We encourage you to adapt Module 3 to fit your community's needs by adding, adjusting or emphasizing relevant content. Lead is more common in certain foods and in foods grown, raised and processed in geographical areas with higher levels of lead (levels of lead in the environment can vary depending on natural geographical makeup and proximity to current or past use or manufacturing of products made with lead). The use of lead pipes can also contaminate water used in food production and lead used in pottery and other food contact surfaces can leach into foods. *Module 3: Personal Hygiene and Nutrition* includes information and precautions about some food sources commonly contaminated with lead.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitors and regulates levels of lead in foods, including dietary supplements, and cosmetics. The FDA's regulations and guidance seek to limit the amount of lead that can occur unintentionally in food, foodware, cookware and packaging. There are no FDA authorized uses of lead as a color additive or food additive (including as a food contact substance). For more information on these FDA regulations, visit: [FDA – Lead in Food and Foodwares](#).

**5. The age range for the Curriculum is listed as 12 and up and the Kids Activity Sheets are for elementary school aged children. Based on this do you recommend doing separate sessions for older and younger children?**

The Curriculum is recommended for participants ages 12 and up because much of the information is technical and could be scary and alarming for younger children. However, teachers know their students best and so a third or fourth grade teacher could easily start with the Kids Activity Sheets while also focusing on certain aspects of the lesson plans appropriate for elementary school-aged children. Another idea would be to hand out the [Kids Activity Book](#) (published October 2023) for younger kids to take home to complete with someone else. For example, the nutrition section of Module 3 would be a fun exercise to do with children. You could also tailor the Curriculum sessions and make version that would be more geared towards middle or high school students.

**6. What is the best way to raise awareness in my community about lead? What is the best way to address childhood lead exposure?**

Every community is unique and EPA's overall recommendation to raise awareness in your community about lead is to use and adapt the Lead Awareness Curriculum to fit you and your community's needs and reality. Instructors should consider how to increase attendance and community involvement as they start to review and develop their plan for using the Curriculum. Instructors may want to work with local organizations, such as parent groups and associations, school and community organizations, health and community associations, and environmental, housing and government agencies. Visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead/documents-and-outreach-materials> for additional lead outreach materials, including materials that are developed each year for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, which is the last full week of October each year.

7. When tailoring the Curriculum, what are suggestions for addressing traditional cultural practices that have a religious component? For example, the use of lead-laden surma or kohl among Afghan refugees. We recommend collaborating with an organization that has experience working with people, and specifically refugees if that is the population you are working with, from a particular country and religious background. This could be a national or local cultural resources organization or department. Lead poisoning disproportionately impacts refugees and other children recently resettled in the United States. Refugee children arriving in the United States have higher blood lead levels than U.S.-born children, though this varies among subpopulations. CDC Sources: [Risk Factors and Refugees and Immigrants](#) and [Risk Factors and International Adoption](#).

8. If I attend a *Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer* session, am I a certified trainer?

At this time, the only certification associated with the Train-the-Trainer session is a certificate of participation. All Train-the-Trainer participants are emailed a copy of their certificate of participation following the conclusion of the session. In some cases, this certificate can be used to meet licensure and other training requirements, or an organization may offer participants continuing education units/credits, which is why it is important to share your contact information with EPA when registering for sessions. However, someone does not need to attend a Train-the-Trainer session or receive a certificate of participation to use the Curriculum. Anyone can go online, [download the Curriculum](#), and start using it immediately.

## Environmental Justice

1. Is there a map that shows communities' lead exposure levels based on their location?

You can use [EJScreen which is EPA's environmental justice \(EJ\) online screening and mapping tool](#) that utilizes nationally consistent data to highlight vulnerable communities overburdened by pollution. The tool provides summarized and detailed information at high resolution for both socioeconomic and environmental indicators. EJScreen is a useful tool to help communities and others identify areas with higher environmental and economic burdens. The tool can help users identify areas with communities of individuals under age five, people of color and/or low-income populations, potential air, water quality, and lead-based paint issues and other factors that may be of interest to a community or group. One of the environmental indicators included in EJScreen is the Lead Paint Indicator which shows the percent of housing units built before 1960 as an indicator of potential lead-based paint exposure and reports the value as a percentile as compared to the state or nation. For a place at the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile nationwide (which shows up as yellow) that means 20% of the U.S. population has a higher value.

To use EJScreen to map a community's potential lead-based paint exposure first choose the geographic area you want to look at by typing it in the search box. If you just want to see the percent of housing built before 1960, select "Lead Paint" under "Pollution and Sources." The tool also provides additional search options that combine environmental and socioeconomic information together. If you are interested in that you could instead choose "Lead Paint" under either the "Environmental Justice Indexes" or "Supplemental Indexes." For more information or to launch the EJScreen Tool, visit [epa.gov/ejscreen](http://epa.gov/ejscreen).

2. If no level of lead is safe, why are statistics focused on reporting certain age groups and blood lead levels?

Statistics are normally focused on young children under the age of six because exposure to lead is especially dangerous to them. Children's growing bodies absorb more lead than adults and their developing brains and



nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. Babies and young children can have higher exposure to lead because they often put their hands and other objects into their mouths that may be contaminated by lead from dust or soil. Adults are most commonly exposed to lead from occupational exposure and the use of lead-contaminated products. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) analyzes data to identify trends in adult workplace lead exposure, specifically examining industries and occupations in which exposures are occurring across the United States. NIOSH's Adult Blood Level Epidemiology and Surveillance program was created to reduce elevated blood lead levels among working adults that are 16 years and older.

CDC currently uses a BLRV of 3.5 µg /dL micrograms per deciliter to identify children with blood lead levels that are higher than most children's levels and is used as a guide to determine appropriate follow-up actions. The BLRV is based on the 97.5th percentile of the blood lead values among U.S. of children ages 1-5 years from the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) cycles. Children with blood lead levels at or above the BLRV are among the top 2.5% of U.S. children with the highest blood lead levels.

## Disclosure of Lead Pipes

### 1. Are there any efforts to mandate disclosure for landlords/home sellers to notify tenants about lead pipes/fixtures like they would for lead-based paint?

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorizes EPA to establish requirements for regulated public water systems. Landlords and home sellers are not directly regulated under the Lead and Copper Rule unless they operate a public water system. Starting in October 2024, the Lead and Copper Rule will require all water systems with lead service lines, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service lines, or unknown service lines (service line material is not known to be lead, GRR or non-lead) in their service line inventory to notify persons served by the water system informing them if they are served by a lead, GRR, or unknown service line. EPA is working to develop Lead and Copper Rule Improvements that will revise many Lead and Copper Rule components. EPA announced the [proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements](#) in November 2023 and will be finalizing them in 2024.

*The SDWA and the Lead-Free Rule also ensures that regulated plumbing products, including kitchen and bathroom faucets are lead free for consumption. The SDWA's lead free plumbing product requirements apply to manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, distributors, re-sellers, retailers, and any person who uses these plumbing products in the installation or repair of a public water system or a residential or nonresidential facility providing water for human consumption. So, that may include persons like landlords. To help ensure compliance of plumbing products subject to SDWA, EPA established a new third-party certification requirement under the Lead-Free Rule that took effect September 1, 2023. Under this part of the Lead-Free Rule, there are certification requirements for manufacturers and importers to demonstrate that the maximum lead content of the wetted surfaces of their plumbing products meet SDWA's stringent lead-free definition.*

## Grants and Other Assistance Programs

### 1. Are there government assistance programs to help people remove lead from their homes?

Yes. There are grants available at the federal, state, tribal and local level to help people remove lead from their homes. The National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) has compiled an online resource available at <https://nchh.org/resources/financing-and-funding/financial-help-for-home-repairs/> of funding sources for homeowners from low-income backgrounds and is a great spot to start. NCHH's webpage includes information

about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Local Rural Development Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's two grant programs. Many states offer lead abatement grants through state health agencies and departments. Each grant program has its own requirements. Some local health departments also have programs, you can reach out to your local health department to ask about programs and/or search online using your location and the terms "lead poisoning prevention" or "lead abatement."

## Testing Your Home for Lead

### 1. What are the options for having my home tested for lead-based paint?

There are two options for having a home tested for lead-based paint: either a lead-based paint inspection or a lead-based paint risk assessment, both of which must be performed by a certified professional.

- A **lead-based paint inspection** is a surface-by-surface investigation that tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. Lead-based paint inspections are most helpful when buying a home or signing a lease, and before renovating a home.
- A **lead-based paint risk assessment** tells you if your home has any lead hazards from paint, dust or soil and what actions to take to address those hazards. This is most helpful if a home is suspected or known to contain lead-based paint or to develop a plan to address existing hazards.

Find a certified lead-based paint inspector or risk assessor using EPA's Lead-based Paint Professional Locator tool at: <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/ocspp-oppt-leadhub/firm-location-search>.

### 2. How much does a lead-based paint inspection or lead-based paint risk assessment cost?

The cost for a lead-based paint inspection or lead-based paint risk assessment varies by location, size of the home and availability of firms.

### 3. Is there a test I can purchase to test the paint in my home for lead?

While you may be able to purchase lead test kits online or at a local hardware store, these kits are only authorized by EPA to be used by certified professionals since the tests can give a false negative – indicating there is no lead in the paint when there actually is lead in the paint. EPA instead recommends homeowners and landlords either hire a certified lead professional to do a lead-based paint inspection or lead-based paint risk assessment, or assume that a pre-1978 house or apartment has lead-based paint and hire someone certified in lead-safe work practices to do renovation, repair and painting work.

### 4. How can I test my home's water for lead?

Homes may have internal plumbing materials containing lead. You cannot see, taste or smell lead dissolved in water. Contact your water utility to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. A list of certified laboratories is available from your state or local drinking water authority or on EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwlabcert/contact-information-certification-programs-and-certified-laboratories-drinking-water>. You can learn more about lead in drinking water on EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.