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City of Chicago's

# LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM

Making Chicago A Lead-Safe City



What every Chicago resident needs to know  
about lead poisoning and about financial  
assistance available to eliminate lead hazards.



City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel,



**HEALTHY  
CHICAGO**

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Chicago Department of Public Health  
Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

## WHAT IS LEAD POISONING?

Lead poisoning is the presence of too much lead in the body. It is caused by swallowing an object with lead, or breathing in dust that contains lead. Lead is most harmful to unborn babies and young children because lead harms the developing brain and nervous system. Even low levels of lead in a child can cause behavior or attention problems, learning difficulties, speech and language problems, reduced IQ and failure at school.

## WHERE IS LEAD FOUND?

Lead can be found in many places, but the most common source of lead that contributes to lead poisoning in unborn babies and young children is lead-based paint. Though lead was banned from paint in 1978, homes built before then may still contain lead-based paint. Even if the paint is not peeling or chipping, it can still be dangerous.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT LEAD POISONING?

### Parents:

Make sure your child receives regular lead tests from their doctor. Testing should begin by 9 months of age. Call your child's doctor to make an appointment or ask your child's doctor to test your child at your next scheduled appointment.

Call 311 to request a free lead inspection. This will help ensure your home is free from lead hazards.

### Landlords:

Chicago City Ordinance requires that all properties are free from lead hazards. Rather than wait for a City Inspector to issue citations and face fines for noncompliance, landlords are encouraged to learn about lead and fix problems before they become hazards. For more information on lead or to learn about free classes on lead-safe work practices, call 312-746-7834.



## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO FIX LEAD HAZARDS?

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has a program to provide financial assistance to property owners for removing lead hazards caused by lead-based paint in the home. With grants available from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Cook County Department of Public Health, CDPH is able to pay up to 100% of the costs to remove these hazards.

## WHAT TYPES OF PROPERTIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

Single family homes and units in multi-unit buildings are eligible. All properties must have been built prior to 1978.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Both property owners and tenants may apply. However, there must be at least one child less than 18 years of age or a pregnant woman that lives or spends a significant amount of time there.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications are available by calling 312-746-7834. They are also available at [www.cityofchicago.org/health](http://www.cityofchicago.org/health) (click on "lead abatement financial assistance" under environmental health").

You will need to complete an application and submit that along with supporting documents in order to be considered for the program.

## ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS?

For at least three years following completion of the work, property owners must agree to keep rents affordable and offer priority rental to families with young children.

If the property is sold within three years, the property owner may be required to refund the money.

Owners must attend a CDPH Lead safe work class and agree to maintain their properties in a lead-safe fashion.



For more info visit  
[www.cityofchicago.org/Health](http://www.cityofchicago.org/Health)  
or call (312) 746-7834

### **Chicago Department of Public Health**

Lead Poisoning  
Prevention and  
Healthy Homes  
Program

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