

Maine DEP Protocol for Screening for Lead Dust Hazards In Housing



Purpose of this protocol

This protocol is designed to determine if there is a lead dust hazard in a pre-1978 residence after the owner or resident has done minor repair of chipping or peeling paint (if any) and performed a thorough cleaning of all the rooms in the residential unit. It delineates a minimum number and locations for sampling for lead dust for this purpose, which is different from the sampling required as part of clearance testing after abatement or renovation activities.

Who can take lead dust samples:

- DEP-licensed Lead Sampling Technicians, Lead Inspectors, and Risk Assessors can sample for lead in residences and child-occupied facility (e.g., daycares, pre-schools, kindergartens).
- Additionally, residential property owners and residents can take dust wipe samples **only in their own property or residence** using test kits designed for homeowner use.

Sampling procedure

- 1) Perform a visual assessment of all rooms in the unit for the presence of deteriorated paint¹, dust or debris in accordance with the EPA training (review Module 2 in the Lead Sampling Technician Training Student Manual on line at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadsamplingtech.htm>). Any visible dust or debris must be cleaned up before dust sampling is implemented. A good way to make sure the unit has been cleaned thoroughly is to wipe a surface with a baby wipe; if the baby wipe is discolored, re-clean that surface, adjacent surfaces, and similar surfaces before sampling for lead dust.
- 2) Take samples from the following locations:
 - a. Floors (non-carpeted only): take one wipe from the unit entryway, and one additional wipe from floors in the two rooms where a child is likely to spend the most time [e.g., living room, the smallest (i.e., the one most likely to be a child's) bedroom, and kitchen].
 - b. Window sills: take a wipe from each of two window sills, one in each of the two rooms where a young child is likely to spend the most time (e.g., the kitchen, the living room, and the small bedroom).

¹ For this screening protocol there are no de minimus limits for the size of the deteriorated paint area (see EPA training manual). Any deteriorated paint present should result in a failure of the visual and no dust samples should be taken. A written report/form should be provided to the owner documenting the locations of the deteriorated paint and /or debris.

For larger residences, additional samples may be warranted to test for lead dust in additional (likely children's) bedrooms and play rooms.

- 3) Blank – prepare one “lot” blank for each lot of dust wipes used, and one field blank each day sampling is performed in accordance with applicable regulations for professionals or in accordance with instructions provided with a home dust wipe kit.
- 4) Complete chain of custody and submit samples for analysis.

Analysis

Analysis of dust wipe samples must be performed by an NLLAP- accredited laboratory in accordance with EPA-approved methods.

Reporting and Recordkeeping

Lead professionals (Dust Sampling Technicians, Inspectors & Risk Assessors) should use the *Lead Dust Testing Report* Form (available on-line at www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/lead/forms) to report the dust sampling results to the building owner or property manager.

DEP-licensed lead professionals are required to retain a copy of the chain of custody, the laboratory results report, and the *Lead Dust Testing Report* for a minimum of 10 years.

What do the results mean?

Floor samples with a result >40 ug/ft² and window samples with a result >250 ug ft² show that there is lead dust present at a level that poses a hazard on the surface from which the sample was taken.

If results exceed these levels, the owner/occupant should re-clean the area from which the sample(s) which exceeded the limit(s) was taken. Resampling can then be performed to confirm there is no lead dust hazard remaining. Instructions for performing a thorough cleaning are available on-line at www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/lead/pdf/dustremovalmaunal.pdf.

Questions?

Please call the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Lead Hazard Prevention Program at 1-800-492-1942 if you have any questions on this protocol.