

# Facilitated Lead Dust Testing Protocol For Home Visitors

August 2024



## Lead Dust Testing Resources for Home Visitors

1. Online training: <https://bit.ly/lead-home-visitors>
2. How to Do a Lead Dust Test Video (3 minutes): <https://bit.ly/lead-dust-test-video>
3. Order tipsheets to give to families. Contact Erin Guay: [Erin.Guay@maine.gov](mailto:Erin.Guay@maine.gov), 207-215-6934

## Who should do a lead dust test?

Families with children under age 3 and pregnant people who live in homes or apartments built before 1950.

Lead dust testing is especially important when home visitors observe chipping, damaged, and/or peeling paint on surfaces such as windowsills and painted floors, or if the home visitor knows that there have been recent renovations, or repair or painting projects in the residence.

## How to Facilitate a Home Lead Dust Test

**Important!** Home visitors cannot do the lead dust test for the family. They can only assist.

### Step 1: Preparation

1. Bring to home visit: Lead dust test kit, tape, pen
2. Have the person doing the test wash their hands
3. Identify the areas to test
  - a. Kitchen floor—because it is high traffic
  - b. Other floor—a place where the child plays or spends a lot of time. Carpet is okay to test.
  - c. Windowsill – that the child can reach

### Step 2: Testing the Floors

1. Tape the 12"x12" template to the floor
2. Have the resident:
  - a. Put on the glove
  - b. Wipe in one direction using s-shaped motion
  - c. Fold the dirty side of the wipe in on itself
  - d. Repeat wiping in the other direction
  - e. Place the wipe in the correct tube
3. Repeat for "other floor" location

Testing carpet or rug: Follow the directions for testing a floor. It is okay for the wipe to tear or roll up during testing. Put all pieces of the wipe in the correct tube.

### Step 3: Testing the Windowsill

1. Measure windowsill (tape measure provided)
2. Have the resident:
  - a. Put on the glove
  - b. Wipe in one direction
  - c. Fold the dirty side of the wipe in on itself
  - d. Repeat wiping in the other direction
  - e. Place the wipe in the correct tube

### Step 4: Fill Out the Form

1. Provide the following required information
  - a. Measurement of the windowsill
  - b. Resident contact info (name, address, phone)
  - c. Date
  - d. Resident Signature
2. Provide Optional Information
  - a. Specific locations tested (ex: baby's room)
  - b. Landlord contact information

### Step 5: Mail the Kit

1. Put the tubes and forms back in the box
2. Put pre-paid mailing label on the box
3. Tape the box shut
4. Put the box in mailbox

### What Happens Next?

- Lab analyzes the test kit
- Results are sent to Maine CDC
- Maine CDC follows up with the family
- Results determine follow up
  - Results mailed to family (takes 2-3 weeks)
  - Maine CDC staff call residents with high results
  - High results may trigger additional testing
- If the resident provided landlord contact information, the results will be sent to landlord.

## **Additional Information for Home Visitors**

### **Key Points About Lead Poisoning**

- Dust from chipping, peeling, flaking old lead paint found in pre-1950 homes is the most common cause of childhood lead poisoning.
- Lead dust settles on windowsills and floors where children play and put their toys.
- Children less than 3 years are most at risk for lead poisoning because of hand to mouth behavior and brain development.
- Children are required by Maine Law to be tested for lead poisoning at ages 1 and 2 years. Parents should talk to their child's doctor to make sure their child gets tested.

### **Information for Families Living in Rental Housing**

- The choice to do a lead dust test is their own, it is not required.
- Tenants have a legal right to test. Landlord cannot retaliate for testing.
- Their landlord might have a negative reaction to dust testing, including attempting eviction.
- They can choose to not provide landlord contact information on the form. If landlord information is provided, we will send a copy of the results to the landlord.
- High test results are very risky to children and may result in further testing by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, under Maine's Lead Poisoning Control Act.

### **Key Points About Lead Dust Testing**

- Home visitors can only help families with testing. Home visitors cannot do the test. Home visitors can help families with choosing places to test, setting up template, measuring the windowsill, filling out form, and mailing the kit. The home visitors cannot put on the glove and take samples.
- Lead dust testing is a good way to find out if there is lead dust in the home before a child is poisoned.
- Lead dust testing does not show where the lead dust is coming from.
- This type of lead dust testing does not provide certified results.
- Lead dust testing can prompt families to take actions to make a situation safer, like frequent cleaning, washing children's hands and toys, and feeding children at the table.
- Lead dust testing can prompt families to have the child tested for lead poisoning.
- The only wrong way to do the test is to not do it.
- It is okay if wipes rip or roll up during testing.
- It is okay to test carpet and rugs.
- Use the video as a refresher on how to do a lead dust.

### **Lead Poisoning Information**

- Maine CDC Lead Poisoning Prevention Web Site: [maine.gov/healthyhomes](http://maine.gov/healthyhomes)
- Maine CDC Lead Program Staff: 866-292-3474 (toll-free in Maine) or 207-287-4311, TTY: 711

