



# Residential Lease Package

R.I.C Property Management

---

LANDLORD

Diamond Tynae Spruill

---

TENANT

January 22, 2026

---

LEASE START DATE



# RESIDENTIAL LEASE PACKAGE

## Table of Contents

---

### Lease Documents

Residential Lease Agreement pages 3 - 9

### Addenda

Utility Company Contact Information page 10

Zero Tolerance for Criminal Activity page 11

Credit Card Authorization page 12

### Disclosures

Lead-Based Paint Disclosure & Certification (1a) page 13

Lead Paint Pamphlet (EPA) for Units Built Before 1978 (1b) pages 14 - 33

### Information Documents

Working Together for Home Fire Safety - A Factsheet on... page 34

Save Energy in Your Home page 35

# RESIDENTIAL LEASE AGREEMENT

**This agreement, dated January 5, 2026, is between R.I.C Property Management and Diamond Tynae Spruill.**

## 1. LANDLORD:

The Landlord(s) and/or agent(s) is/are:

R.I.C Property Management (Agent)

who may sign as an authorized representative on behalf of the owner of the Leased Premises and will be referred to in this Lease Agreement as "Landlord."

## 2. TENANT:

The Tenant(s) is/are:

Diamond Tynae Spruill

and will be referred to in this Lease Agreement as "Tenant."

## 3. RENTAL PROPERTY:

The Landlord agrees to rent to the Tenant the property located at 1812 Mcculloh St, 1, Baltimore, MD, 21217, which will be referred to in this Lease as the "Leased Premises."

## 4. TERM OF LEASE AGREEMENT:

The Lease Agreement will begin on January 22, 2026 and will end on January 31, 2027.

## 5. USE & OCCUPANCY OF PROPERTY:

- A. The only person(s) living in the Leased Premises is/are: Diamond Tynae Spruill, Jade Blackwell
- B. Any change in occupancy will require written consent of the Landlord and may be subject to an adjustment in the amount of rent.
- C. The Tenant will use the Leased Premises only as a residence.

## 6. RENT:

- A. The amount of the Rent is \$1,300.00 to be paid monthly.
- B. The rent is due in advance on or before the 1st day of each month. The rent due date is the date the Landlord must receive the Tenant's payment.
- C. Tenant(s) agree to pay the rent and all additional rent when due on time, without demand. All additional charges, costs and fees set forth throughout this Lease Agreement, are considered to be additional rent. Upon the non-payment of additional rent, Landlord will have the same rights to proceed against the Tenant(s) for the collection or eviction as if Tenant(s) defaulted on the rental payment.
- D. Rental payments are made payable to: R.I.C Property Management
- E. Rental payments paid by Certified Check, Personal Check, Money Order, and/or Cash shall be delivered to the Landlord at: R.I.C Property Management, 6301 Ivy Lane, Suite 805, Greenbelt, MD 20770
- F. Tenant may deposit rent and all other charges into the Landlord's bank account. Rent and charges must be deposited on or before the day it becomes due in accordance with the terms and conditions within this lease.
- G. Rent may be paid by using the following electronic payment method(s): Debit/Credit Card or EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer). Electronic payments such as those made via a credit/debit card, EFT or online payment processors such as PayPal refers to the network of banking institutions that have agreed to process transactions (usually instantly and automatically) electronically with no paper tender such as checks, money orders and/or cash or any other form of paper tender that is hand processed through a bank, financial institution clearinghouse or the Federal Reserve system.
- H. Credit card payments shall be authorized by the Addendum attached to this Residential Lease Agreement that is titled "Credit Card Authorization"
- I. If an electronic payment is not paid by the financial institution on or before the date due as specified in this Lease, it shall be treated as a "Late Payment" under the terms and conditions contained in this Residential Lease Agreement.
- J. If an electronic payment fails to clear or is returned unpaid by the financial institution on or before the date due as specified in this Lease, it shall be treated as a "Returned Payment" under the terms and conditions contained in this Residential Lease Agreement.

## 7. FUNDS COLLECTED ON OR BEFORE LEASE SIGNING:

The following funds are due on or before the signing of this Lease Agreement unless otherwise agreed to in writing:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| First Month's Rent | \$1,300.00        |
| Security Deposit   | \$1,300.00 (R)    |
| <b>TOTAL DUE</b>   | <b>\$2,600.00</b> |

Funds marked with (R) are refundable in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Lease and all applicable laws, while funds marked with (NR) are non-refundable fees.

## 8. LATE FEE:

- A. If the rent or any other charges are not received by the Landlord on or before 5 days after the rent due date, Tenant must pay a late fee of 5% of the monthly rental payment in addition to the rent.
- B. Payments received by Landlord when there are arrearages, shall be credited first, to any outstanding balance, and then applied to the current amount due.

## 9. RETURNED PAYMENTS:

- A. A returned payment fee of \$35 will be added for all returned payments. A personal check will not be accepted as payment to replace a returned payment.
- B. If your financial institution returns your rental payment and causes the rental payment to be late, a late charge will apply.

## 10. SECURITY DEPOSIT:

- A. The Tenant(s) have paid to the Landlord a Security Deposit of \$1,300.00.
- B. Tenant agrees that this security deposit is intended to secure the faithful performance by the Tenant of all terms, covenants and conditions of this Lease Agreement including but not limited to the cost of damages beyond normal wear and tear, unreturned keys, unpaid rent and any other amount due and legally allowable under the terms of this Lease Agreement and in accordance with state and local laws and regulations.
- C. Tenant may be responsible for any unpaid charges or attorney fees, suffered by the Landlord by reason of Tenant's default of this Lease in accordance with state and local laws and regulations.
- D. Under no circumstance can the Security Deposit be used as payment for rent and/or other charges due during the term of this Lease Agreement.
- E. Landlord's recovery of damages will not be limited to the amount of the Security Deposit.

## 11. ENDING THE LEASE:

- A. At the end of this Lease Agreement or any renewal thereof, Tenant must vacate and shall immediately and peacefully surrender and return to the Landlord the possession of the Leased Premises in as good condition as when Tenant took possession less normal wear and tear. The Leased Premises shall be cleared out of all occupants, furniture, personal articles, and effects of any kind.

## 12. UTILITIES & SERVICES:

- A. Tenant is responsible for the following utilities and services: Electricity, Water, and Gas and is required to register the utilities and services in Tenant's name. Tenant understands and agrees that essential services are to be maintained and operational at all times.

## 13. APPLIANCES:

- A. Landlord will supply and maintain: Washing Machine, Dryer, Refrigerator, and Stove.
  - I. Tenant will keep appliances provided by Landlord in good working order and shall report any malfunction to the Landlord. Any damage sustained due to the neglect or misuse by Tenant will become the full responsibility of the Tenant, either in the appliance repair or replacement.
  - II. Tenant agrees that the items specified above are the property of the Landlord and will remain with the Leased Premises at the end of this lease term.

- B. Tenant must have written approval before installing any appliance. Landlord accepts no responsibility for the maintenance, repair or upkeep of any appliance supplied by the Tenant. Tenant agrees Tenant is responsible for any damage that occurs to the Leased Premises resulting from the addition of any appliance that is supplied by the Tenant.

#### 14. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS:

Landlord shall be responsible for repairs in or about the Leased Premises unless caused by the negligence of the Tenant. Tenant will be responsible for any repairs caused by Tenant's negligence.

- A. It is the responsibility of the Tenant to promptly notify the Landlord of the need for any repair of which the Tenant becomes aware.
- B. If any required repair is caused by the negligence of the Tenant and/or Tenant's guests, the Tenant will be fully responsible for the cost of the repair and/or replacement that may be needed.
- C. The Tenant must keep the Leased Premises clean and sanitary at all times and remove all rubbish, garbage, and other waste, in a clean, tidy and sanitary manner.
- D. Tenant must abide by all local recycling regulations.
- E. The Tenant shall properly use and operate all electrical, cooking and plumbing fixtures and keep them clean and sanitary.
- F. The Tenant is not permitted to paint, make any alterations, improvements or additions to the Leased Premises without first obtaining the written permission of the Landlord. The Landlord's permission to a particular painting, alteration, improvement, or addition shall not be deemed as consent to future painting, alterations, improvements, or additions.
- G. The Tenant shall provide the Tenant's own pest control services.
- H. Tenant must replace and/or clean the filters for the heater and/or air conditioner on a regular basis.

#### 15. CONDITION OF PROPERTY:

- A. The Tenant acknowledges that the Tenant has inspected the Leased Premises and at the commencement of this Lease Agreement, the interior and exterior of the Leased Premises, as well as all equipment and any appliances are found to be in an acceptable condition and in good working order.
- B. The Tenant agrees that neither the Landlord nor the Landlord's agent have made promises regarding the condition of the Leased Premises.
- C. The Tenant agrees to return the Leased Premises to Landlord at end of the Lease Agreement in the same condition it was at the beginning of the Lease Agreement.

#### 16. PETS:

- A. Pets are not allowed.

#### 17. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- A. Vehicles parked on premises must be in working order with necessary registrations and/or inspections.
- B. Late fees are strictly enforced and any unpaid fees will not be waived.
- C. The Tenant may not interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of the neighbors.
- D. Garbage/Trash must be taken to the curb on the scheduled day(s) of trash removal and not before.
- E. The Tenant will be responsible for any fine and/or violation that is imposed on the Landlord due to the Tenant's negligence.
- F. The Tenant shall abide by all Federal, State, and Local laws.
- G. The Tenant shall notify the police and Landlord of any illegal activity that is witnessed in or around the Leased Premises.
- H. The Tenant agrees not to use the Leased Premises for any unlawful purpose including but not limited to the sale, use or possession of illegal drugs on or around the Leased Premises.
- I. The Tenant agrees to test smoke detector(s) periodically as well as maintain operational batteries at all times.
- J. The Tenant must report any malfunction with smoke detector(s) immediately to Landlord. The Tenant agrees not to remove, dismantle or take any action to interfere with the operation of any smoke detector(s) installed on the Leased Premises.
- K. The Tenant agrees to test carbon monoxide detector(s) periodically as well as maintain operational batteries at all times. The Tenant must report immediately to the Landlord any malfunction with carbon monoxide detector(s).
- L. Absolutely no hazardous materials are permitted to be in or around the Leased Premises at any time.
- M. The Tenant may not use or store Kerosene or space heaters at any time in or around the Leased Premises.
- N. Under no circumstance may a stove, oven or range be used as a source for heat.
- O. Charcoal and Gas Barbecue grills may not be used inside the Leased Premises.
- P. The Tenant shall use ventilating fans at all times when bathing and cooking.

- Q. All windows and doors must remain closed during inclement weather.
- R. The Tenant shall notify Landlord of any pest control problems.
- S. The Tenant must notify Landlord of any changes in employment.
- T. The basement and/or attic may not be modified for the use as living quarters without written permission of the Landlord.
- U. Trampolines are not permitted on the Leased Premises.
- V. Waterbeds and liquid furniture are not permitted without the written permission of the Landlord.
- W. The Tenant must obtain written permission to install a satellite system or antenna on or around the Leased Premises.
- X. The Tenant may not store or park a recreational vehicle, commercial vehicle, or watercraft on Leased Premises without Landlord's written permission.
- Y. The use of any provided swimming pool or hot tub is at the Tenant's own risk. The Tenant further understands that any interruption of use will not alter or change any of the terms of this Lease.
- Z. The Tenant may not block the fire escape at any time.
- AA. The Tenant may not use windows, decks, or balconies for the purpose of drying laundry.
- BB. Landlord does not permit loud gatherings. A disturbance caused by Tenant or Tenant's occupants or invitees that results in any police action or complaints from neighbors is considered sufficient cause for termination of this Lease and action for eviction as permitted by law.
- CC. Tenant agrees to maintain an air temperature inside the property of 50-80 degrees Fahrenheit at all times, unless otherwise specified by state or local laws.
- DD. When a Tenant breaches any part of the lease, the landlord may impose a fine of \$50-\$100 per incident, as a reasonable estimate of costs and damages incurred by tenant. Nothing in this clause shall limit landlord's ability to seek and recover additional funds where the costs incurred by tenant and/or damages suffered exceed the amount listed here.
- EE. Tenant is not allowed to list the house on any short term rental sites for any reason.
- FF. Both Landlord and Tenant agree to update either party with change of email or phone number.
- GG. If Tenant(s) violate the lease and allow a pet on the premises they will be responsible for a \$500 fine and any additional costs to remove the animal, clean and deodorize the premises.

#### 18. ADDENDA:

The following Addenda, attached to this Lease Agreement, shall become part of this Lease Agreement:

- A. Zero Tolerance for Criminal Activity
- C. Lead-Based Paint Disclosure & Certification (1a)
- B. Lead Paint Pamphlet (EPA) for Units Built Before 1978 (1b)

#### 19. INSURANCE:

Tenant is solely responsible for any damage or loss of the Tenant's personal property to the extent that the law permits. Accordingly, the Tenant is required to obtain personal property/renter's insurance with an insurance company properly licensed to do business in the state. This policy must become effective on or before the beginning date of this Lease Agreement. If Tenant fails to obtain personal property/renters insurance, it is a breach of this Lease Agreement. Tenant must provide proof of insurance required by this Lease Agreement. It is a breach of this Lease Agreement if Tenant fails to provide proof of insurance upon Landlord's request.

#### 20. SECURITY NOT PROMISED:

The Tenant has inspected and acknowledges that all locks and smoke detectors are in working order. Any provided fire extinguishers, security alarm systems, and/or carbon monoxide detectors have also been inspected by the Tenant and are in sound working order. Tenant understands that although the Landlord makes every effort to make the Leased Premises safe and secure, this in no way creates a promise of security.

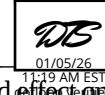
#### 21. RIGHT OF ENTRY:

- A. Landlord and/or Landlord's agents, with 24 hours written notice have the right during the term of this Lease Agreement to enter during reasonable hours to inspect the premises, make repairs or improvements or show prospective buyers and/or Tenant(s) the property.

- B. In the event of an emergency, Landlord reserves the right to enter Leased Premises without notice. It is required that Landlord have a working set of keys and/or security codes to gain access to the Leased Premises.
  - I. Tenants will not change, or install additional locks, bolts or security systems without the written permission of the Landlord.
  - II. Unauthorized installation or changing of any locks will be replaced at the Tenant's expense.
  - III. Tenant shall be responsible for any and all damages that may occur as a result of forcible entry during an emergency where there is an unauthorized placement of a lock.

## 22. AUTOMATIC LEASE RENEWAL:

Tenant(s) understands that this Lease is automatically renewed. Tenant's Initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_



- A. At the end of this Lease Agreement, this lease will continue in full force and effect on a month to month basis with an increase in the Rent by 8% per month unless Tenant or Landlord provides written notice to the other party at least 30 days before the end of the term (Term of Lease Agreement) to terminate the Lease (including any exercised renewal or extension thereof).

## 23. NOTICES:

- A. Any notice, required by the terms of this Lease Agreement shall be in writing.
- B. Notices sent to the Landlord may be sent to the following:
  - I. 6301 Ivy Lane , Suite 805, Greenbelt, MD, 20770
  - II. Email: support@richometeam.com
- C. Notices may be given by either party to the other in any of the following ways, or any other manner provided for by law:
  - I. Regular mail
  - II. Personal delivery
  - III. Certified or registered mail, return receipt requested
  - IV. Email

## 24. ABANDONMENT:

If Tenant vacates the Leased Premises before the end of the Lease term or renewal thereof without written permission from the Landlord, Landlord may, at Landlord's sole discretion, hold Tenant in default of this Lease Agreement. If the Tenant fails to follow proper move out procedures, Tenant will be responsible for any and all damages and losses allowed by federal, state and local regulations as well as this Lease.

## 25. LANDLORD'S REMEDIES:

If Tenant violates any part of this Lease Agreement including non-payment of rent, the Tenant is in default of this Lease Agreement. In the event of a default, the Landlord may initiate legal proceedings in accordance with local and state regulations to evict or have Tenant removed from the Leased Premises as well as seek judgment against Tenant for any monies owed to Landlord as a result of Tenant's default.

- A. The Tenant agrees that any expenses and/or damages incurred as a result of a breach of the Lease Agreement including reasonable attorney's fees will be paid to the prevailing party.
- B. The Tenant agrees that any court costs and/or fees incurred as a result of a breach of the Lease Agreement will be paid to the Landlord or the prevailing party.

## 26. SUBORDINATION:

This Lease Agreement is subject and subordinate to any lease, financing, loans, other arrangements, or right to possession with regards to the building or land that the Landlord is obligated to now or in the future including existing and future financing, and/or loans or leases on the building and land.

## 27. CONDEMNATION:

If the whole or any part of the Leased Premises is taken by any authority having power of condemnation, this Lease Agreement will end. Tenant shall peaceably vacate the Leased Premises and remove all personal property and the lease terms will no longer apply. The Tenant, however is responsible for all rent and charges until such time that Tenant vacates the Leased Premises.

## 28. ASSIGNMENT OR SUBLEASE:

Tenant agrees not to transfer, assign or sublease the Leased Premises without the Landlord's written permission.

## 29. JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY:

The Tenant understands and agrees that if there is more than one Tenant that has signed the Lease Agreement, each Tenant is individually and completely responsible for all obligations under the terms of the Lease Agreement.

## 30. MISREPRESENTATION:

If any information provided by Tenant in application for this Lease is found to be knowingly incorrect, untruthful and/or misleading, it is a breach of this Lease.

## 31. BINDING OF HEIRS AND ASSIGNS:

All provisions, terms and conditions of this Lease Agreement shall be binding to Tenant, Landlord, their Heirs, Assignees and Legal Successors.

## 32. SEVERABILITY:

If any part of this Lease Agreement is not valid, enforceable, binding or legal, it will not cancel or void the rest of this Lease Agreement. The remainder of the Lease Agreement will continue to be valid and enforceable by the Landlord, to the maximum extent of the laws and regulations set forth by local, state and federal governments.

## 33. GOVERNING LAW:

This Agreement shall be governed, construed and interpreted by, through and under the Laws of the State of Maryland.

## 34. ADDITIONAL CLAUSES:

- A. Landlord's acceptance of rental payments is not a waiver of any default by the Tenant.
- B. **Move-in/Move Out Inspection:** Tenants have the right to be present during a property inspection for the purpose of making a list of damages that may exist at the beginning (move-in) of the Lease Agreement and at the end (move-out) of the Lease Agreement.

This request must be made in writing within fifteen (15) days prior to the beginning of the Lease agreement for the move-in inspection. A Request for a move-out inspection must be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the ending of the Lease Agreement along with the Tenant's intention to vacate, the date of moving, and the tenant's forwarding address.

The Landlord must conduct the inspection within five (5) days before or after the Tenant's date of moving. Landlord will notify tenant of the time and date of inspection.

## 35. PARAGRAPH HEADINGS:

Paragraph headings in this Lease Agreement are for convenient reference only and do not represent the rights or obligations of the Landlord or Tenant.

## 36. ENTIRE AGREEMENT:

- A. Landlord and Tenant agree that this Lease Agreement and any attached Addenda, Rules and Regulations, and/or Special Terms and Conditions accurately represent all terms and agreements between the Landlord and Tenant regarding the Leased Premises.
- B. Tenant acknowledges the receipt of any disclosures required by the State of Maryland as well as any disclosures required by federal, state, and local jurisdictions.

## NOTICE: This is an important LEGAL document.

- You may have an attorney review the Lease Agreement prior to signing it.
- If the Landlord fails to enforce any provision of this Lease Agreement, it will not constitute a waiver of any default, future default or default of the remaining provisions.
- Time is of the essence in this Lease Agreement.

By signing this Lease Agreement, the Tenant certifies that the Tenant has read, understood, and agrees to comply with all of the terms, conditions, Rules, and Regulations of this Lease Agreement including any addenda and that the Tenant has received the following:

1. Copies of all Addenda, Rules and Regulations, Special Terms and Conditions, and Applications.
2. All necessary Key(s), Garage Door Opener(s), Security Card(s), and/or Auto Sticker(s) to the Leased Premises.

Tenant's Signature:

*Diamond Tyna Spruill*

dotloop verified  
01/05/26 11:19 AM EST  
COBT-MOFI-NH7V-YSG5

Landlord/Agent Signature:

*Samuel Odagbodo*

dotloop verified  
01/06/26 11:01 AM  
EST  
UIG3-RIET-QJP3-NAQS



## UTILITY COMPANY INFORMATION

*As a courtesy, we are providing the utility company information for the property to assist you with moving in.*

**IMPORTANT:**

Before the Lease begins and/or you move in, you must contact the utility companies to activate service. The Tenant may not move in until the utilities are registered in their name. If the Tenant fails to activate any utility services before the Lease begins, the Tenant will be responsible for re-lighting any of the Gas pilots and for all Tenant utility charges.

The Tenant is responsible for all utility activation fees.

Please take the time to locate and familiarize yourself with the location of the gas and water shutoff valves and the electric fuses and/or breakers.

Baltimore Gas and Electric (BG&E)  
Baltimore, MD  
Phone: 1-800-685-0123  
<http://www.bge.com>

Baltimore Gas and Electricity (BG&E)  
Baltimore, MD  
Phone: 1-800-685-0123  
<http://www.bge.com>

City of Baltimore Water Managment  
Baltimore, MD  
<http://cityservices.baltimorecity.gov/water/>

Verizon FiOS Cable  
1 E Pratt Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Phone: (866) 306-1774  
<http://www22.verizon.com>

Find USPS change-of-address forms at <http://moversguide.usps.com>.

## ADDENDUM: ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Landlord: R.I.C Property Management  
Tenant: Diamond Tynae Spruill  
Leased Premises: 1812 Mcculloh St, 1, Baltimore, MD 21217

This LEASE ADDENDUM is incorporated into and made part of the Lease executed by the Landlord and the Tenant referring to and incorporating the Leased Premises.

The Landlord has zero tolerance for criminal activity in or around the Leased Premises.

This policy applies to all Tenants, occupants, guests, and any visitors in or around the Leased Premises. The Landlord will immediately report any evidence of criminal activity to the proper authorities, and the Tenant's engagement in any criminal activity is a default of the Lease.

The Tenant understands Tenant's responsibility to call the police/emergency services and report any suspicious activity observed, and then notify the Landlord.

The Tenant understands that disturbances of the peace not only infringe on the neighbors' peaceful enjoyment of their property, but are also a default of the Lease.

In the event of any criminal activity in which the Tenant is directly or indirectly involved, the Landlord will take the legal measures necessary to evict the Tenant(s) from the Leased Premises. This includes but is not limited to illegal drug activity, gang involvement, organized crime and disturbances of the peace.

The Tenant understands that violation of this addendum is a default of the Lease and will result in the Landlord taking the necessary steps towards eviction of the Tenant. The Tenant may then be responsible for the rent remaining due for the balance of the Lease term, court costs, attorney fees, and other charges in accordance with all applicable Maryland, local laws and regulations.

Tenant's Signature: *Diamond Tynae Spruill* dotloop verified  
01/05/26 11:19 AM  
EST  
YAVB-GJ37-BLUA-XYIV

Tenant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's Signature: *Samuel Olaybodo* dotloop verified  
01/06/26 11:01 AM EST  
DFBV-1JHC-RHLR-PPMK



# CREDIT CARD BILLING AUTHORIZATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following and either return via email or fax the completed form to: \_\_\_\_\_

## CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

### BILLING INFORMATION

Name as it Appears on Credit/Debit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### CREDIT/DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

Select one    Visa    MasterCard    Discover Card

Credit/Debit Card Number Card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date    3- 4 Digit SC\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Most Credit Cards have a 3 or 4 digit security code located on the back of the card.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that this authorization will persist unless I terminate it in writing.  
Moreover, I agree to inform \_\_\_\_\_ in writing of any alterations to my account details or  
cancellation of this authorization at least 15 days before the subsequent billing date. I recognize that all  
Credit Card transactions charged to my account must adhere to the legal provisions of the United  
States. Additionally, I certify that I have the authority to use this Credit Card and will not challenge any  
transactions that correspond to the conditions specified in this lease agreement.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Notice: In order to cancel this monthly credit/debit card transaction, a notice of  
at least fifteen (15) business days prior to the next payment period is required.**

## Disclosure of Information on Lead-Based Paint and/or Lead-Based Paint Hazard

### Lead Warning Statement

Housing built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Lead from paint, paint chips, and dust can pose health hazards if not managed properly. Lead exposure is especially harmful to young children and pregnant women. Before renting pre-1978 housing, lessors must disclose the presence of known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the dwelling. Lessees must also receive a federally approved pamphlet on lead poisoning prevention.

### Lessor's (Landlord's) Disclosure

(a) Presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards (initial (i) or (ii) below):

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ Known lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards are present in the housing (explain).

☐ (ii)   X   Lessor has no knowledge of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing.

(b) Records and reports available to the lessor (initial (i) or (ii) below):

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ Lessor has provided the lessee with all available records and reports pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing. (list documents below)

☐ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ Lessor has no reports or records pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing.

### Lessee's (Tenant's) Acknowledgment (initial):

(c) ☐ Lessee has received copies of all information listed above.

(d) ☒ Lessee has received the pamphlet Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home.

### Agent's Acknowledgment (initial):

e) ☒ Agent has informed the lessor of the lessor's obligations under 42 U.S.C. 4852(d) and is aware of the responsibility to ensure compliance.

### Certification of Accuracy

The following parties have reviewed the information above and certify, to the best of their knowledge, that the information they have provided is true and accurate.

Lessee's (Tenant's) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Diamond Tyrae Spruill*

dotloop verified  
01/05/26 11:19 AM EST  
HHHQ-4V36-YNL9-VSYX

Lessee's (Tenant's) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lessee's (Tenant's) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lessee's (Tenant's) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lessee's (Tenant's) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lessee's (Tenant's) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lessor's (Landlord's) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Samuel Odagbodo*

dotloop verified  
01/06/26 11:03 AM EST  
9AE8-75EB-SPNU-HQ8E

Agent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Samuel Odagbodo*

dotloop verified  
01/06/26 11:03 AM EST  
7HD3-JUGC-E7OF-0QPE

This collection of information is approved by the OMB under the **Paperwork Reduction Act (OMB Control No. 2070-0151)**. Responses to this collection of information are mandatory. For more information on the Paperwork Reduction Act visit [pra.digital.gov](https://www.pra.digital.gov).



# Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home



United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



United States  
Consumer Product  
Safety Commission



United States  
Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

## Are You Planning to Buy or Rent a Home Built Before 1978?

---

Did you know that many homes built before 1978 have **lead-based paint**? Lead from paint, chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards.

### Read this entire brochure to learn:

- How lead gets into the body
- How lead affects health
- What you can do to protect your family
- Where to go for more information

### Before renting or buying a pre-1978 home or apartment, federal law requires:

- Sellers must disclose known information on lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards before selling a house.
- Real estate sales contracts must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint. Buyers have up to 10 days to check for lead.
- Landlords must disclose known information on lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. Leases must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint.

### If undertaking renovations, repairs, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or apartment:

- Read EPA's pamphlet, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*, to learn about the lead-safe work practices that contractors are required to follow when working in your home (see page 12).



## Simple Steps to Protect Your Family from Lead Hazards

### If you think your home has lead-based paint:

- Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.
- Always keep painted surfaces in good condition to minimize deterioration.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards. Find a certified inspector or risk assessor at [epa.gov/lead](https://epa.gov/lead).
- Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe certified renovation firms.
- Before buying, renting, or renovating your home, have it checked for lead-based paint.
- Consult your health care provider about testing your children for lead. Your pediatrician can check for lead with a simple blood test.
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.
- Remove shoes or wipe soil off shoes before entering your house.

## Lead Gets into the Body in Many Ways

---

### **Adults and children can get lead into their bodies if they:**

- Breathe in lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs, or painting that disturb painted surfaces).
- Swallow lead dust that has settled on food, food preparation surfaces, and other places.
- Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead.

### **Lead is especially dangerous to children under the age of 6.**

- At this age, children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead.
- Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. These objects can have lead dust on them.



### **Women of childbearing age should know that lead is dangerous to a developing fetus.**

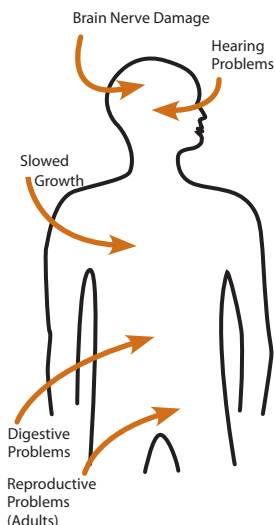
- Women with a high lead level in their system before or during pregnancy risk exposing the fetus to lead through the placenta during fetal development.

## Health Effects of Lead

**Lead affects the body in many ways.** It is important to know that even exposure to low levels of lead can severely harm children.

### In children, exposure to lead can cause:

- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention-deficit disorder, and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language, and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage



While low-lead exposure is most common, exposure to high amounts of lead can have devastating effects on children, including seizures, unconsciousness, and in some cases, death.

Although children are especially susceptible to lead exposure, lead can be dangerous for adults, too.

### In adults, exposure to lead can cause:

- Harm to a developing fetus
- Increased chance of high blood pressure during pregnancy
- Fertility problems (in men and women)
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems
- Nerve disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pain

## Check Your Family for Lead

---

**Get your children and home tested if you think your home has lead.**

Children's blood lead levels tend to increase rapidly from 6 to 12 months of age, and tend to peak at 18 to 24 months of age.

Consult your doctor for advice on testing your children. A simple blood test can detect lead. Blood lead tests are usually recommended for:

- Children at ages 1 and 2
- Children or other family members who have been exposed to high levels of lead
- Children who should be tested under your state or local health screening plan

**Your doctor can explain what the test results mean and if more testing will be needed.**

## Where Lead-Based Paint Is Found

---

In general, the older your home or childcare facility, the more likely it has lead-based paint.<sup>1</sup>

**Many homes, including private, federally-assisted, federally-owned housing, and childcare facilities built before 1978 have lead-based paint.** In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint.<sup>2</sup>

Learn how to determine if paint is lead-based paint on page 7.

### Lead can be found:

- In homes and childcare facilities in the city, country, or suburbs,
- In private and public single-family homes and apartments,
- On surfaces inside and outside of the house, and
- In soil around a home. (Soil can pick up lead from exterior paint or other sources, such as past use of leaded gas in cars.)

Learn more about where lead is found at [epa.gov/lead](https://epa.gov/lead).

---

<sup>1</sup> "Lead-based paint" is currently defined by the federal government as paint with lead levels greater than or equal to 1.0 milligram per square centimeter (mg/cm<sup>2</sup>), or more than 0.5% by weight.

<sup>2</sup> "Lead-containing paint" is currently defined by the federal government as lead in new dried paint in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

## Identifying Lead-Based Paint and Lead-Based Paint Hazards

---

**Deteriorated lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, or damaged paint)** is a hazard and needs immediate attention. **Lead-based paint** may also be a hazard when found on surfaces that children can chew or that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

- On windows and window sills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters, and porches

**Lead-based paint is usually not a hazard if it is in good condition** and if it is not on an impact or friction surface like a window.

**Lead dust** can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. Lead dust also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together. Lead paint chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can reenter the air when the home is vacuumed or swept, or when people walk through it. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in dust as hazardous:

- 10 micrograms per square foot ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ ) and higher for floors, including carpeted floors
- 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  and higher for interior window sills

**Lead in soil** can be a hazard when children play in bare soil or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in soil as hazardous:

- 400 parts per million (ppm) and higher in play areas of bare soil
- 1,200 ppm (average) and higher in bare soil in the remainder of the yard

**Remember, lead from paint chips—which you can see—and lead dust—which you may not be able to see—both can be hazards.**

The only way to find out if paint, dust, or soil lead hazards exist is to test for them. The next page describes how to do this.

## Checking Your Home for Lead

---

You can get your home tested for lead in several different ways:

- A lead-based paint **inspection** tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether your home currently has lead hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a lead-based paint inspector, will conduct a paint inspection using methods, such as:
  - Portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine
  - Lab tests of paint samples
- A **risk assessment** tells you if your home currently has any lead hazards from lead in paint, dust, or soil. It also tells you what actions to take to address any hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a risk assessor, will:
  - Sample paint that is deteriorated on doors, windows, floors, stairs, and walls
  - Sample dust near painted surfaces and sample bare soil in the yard
  - Get lab tests of paint, dust, and soil samples
- A combination inspection and risk assessment tells you if your home has any lead-based paint and if your home has any lead hazards, and where both are located.



Be sure to read the report provided to you after your inspection or risk assessment is completed, and ask questions about anything you do not understand.

## Checking Your Home for Lead, continued

---

In preparing for renovation, repair, or painting work in a pre-1978 home, Lead-Safe Certified renovators (see page 12) may:

- Take paint chip samples to determine if lead-based paint is present in the area planned for renovation and send them to an EPA-recognized lead lab for analysis. In housing receiving federal assistance, the person collecting these samples must be a certified lead-based paint inspector or risk assessor
- Use EPA-recognized tests kits to determine if lead-based paint is absent (but not in housing receiving federal assistance)
- Presume that lead-based paint is present and use lead-safe work practices

There are state and federal programs in place to ensure that testing is done safely, reliably, and effectively. Contact your state or local agency for more information, visit [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead), or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)** for a list of contacts in your area.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

## What You Can Do Now to Protect Your Family

---

**If you suspect that your house has lead-based paint hazards, you can take some immediate steps to reduce your family's risk:**

- If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
- Keep painted surfaces clean and free of dust. Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. (Remember: never mix ammonia and bleach products together because they can form a dangerous gas.)
- Carefully clean up paint chips immediately without creating dust.
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads often during cleaning of dirty or dusty areas, and again afterward.
- Wash your hands and your children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time.
- Keep play areas clean. Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys, and stuffed animals regularly.
- Keep children from chewing window sills or other painted surfaces, or eating soil.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe Certified renovation firms (see page 12).
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Make sure children eat nutritious, low-fat meals high in iron, and calcium, such as spinach and dairy products. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

## Reducing Lead Hazards

---

**Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house.**

- In addition to day-to-day cleaning and good nutrition, you can **temporarily** reduce lead-based paint hazards by taking actions, such as repairing damaged painted surfaces and planting grass to cover lead-contaminated soil. These actions are not permanent solutions and will need ongoing attention.
- You can minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing, or painting by hiring an EPA- or state-certified renovator who is trained in the use of lead-safe work practices. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, learn how to use lead-safe work practices in your home.
- To remove lead hazards permanently, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement (or permanent hazard elimination) methods include removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Just painting over the hazard with regular paint is not permanent control.



**Always use a certified contractor who is trained to address lead hazards safely.**

- Hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm (see page 12) to perform renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects that disturb painted surfaces.
- To correct lead hazards permanently, hire a certified lead abatement contractor. This will ensure your contractor knows how to work safely and has the proper equipment to clean up thoroughly.

Certified contractors will employ qualified workers and follow strict safety rules as set by their state or by the federal government.

## Reducing Lead Hazards, continued

---

**If your home has had lead abatement work done** or if the housing is receiving federal assistance, once the work is completed, dust cleanup activities must be conducted until clearance testing indicates that lead dust levels are below the following levels:

- 10 micrograms per square foot ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ ) for floors, including carpeted floors
- 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  for interior windows sills
- 400  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  for window troughs

**Abatements are designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards.** However, lead dust can be reintroduced into an abated area.

- Use a HEPA vacuum on all furniture and other items returned to the area, to reduce the potential for reintroducing lead dust.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, troughs, and other hard surfaces with a damp cloth or sponge and a general all-purpose cleaner.

Please see page 9 for more information on steps you can take to protect your home after the abatement. For help in locating certified lead abatement professionals in your area, call your state or local agency (see pages 15 and 16), [epa.gov/lead](https://epa.gov/lead), or call 1-800-424-LEAD.

## Renovating, Repairing or Painting a Home with Lead-Based Paint

---

**If you hire a contractor to conduct renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or childcare facility (such as pre-school and kindergarten), your contractor must:**

- Be a Lead-Safe Certified firm approved by EPA or an EPA-authorized state program
- Use qualified trained individuals (Lead-Safe Certified renovators) who follow specific lead-safe work practices to prevent lead contamination
- Provide a copy of EPA's lead hazard information document, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*



**RRP contractors working in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities must follow lead-safe work practices that:**

- **Contain the work area.** The area must be contained so that dust and debris do not escape from the work area. Warning signs must be put up, and plastic or other impermeable material and tape must be used.
- **Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.** Some methods generate so much lead-contaminated dust that their use is prohibited. They are:
  - Open-flame burning or torching
  - Sanding, grinding, planing, needle gunning, or blasting with power tools and equipment not equipped with a shroud and HEPA vacuum attachment
  - Using a heat gun at temperatures greater than 1100°F
- **Clean up thoroughly.** The work area should be cleaned up daily. When all the work is done, the area must be cleaned up using special cleaning methods.
- **Dispose of waste properly.** Collect and seal waste in a heavy duty bag or sheeting. When transported, ensure that waste is contained to prevent release of dust and debris.

To learn more about EPA's requirements for RRP projects, visit [epa.gov/getleadsafe](https://epa.gov/getleadsafe), or read *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*.

## Other Sources of Lead

---

### Lead in Drinking Water

The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures.

Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986.

You can't smell or taste lead in drinking water.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, have your water tested.

Remember older homes with a private well can also have plumbing materials that contain lead.

### Important Steps You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- If you use a filter certified to remove lead, don't forget to read the directions to learn when to change the cartridge. Using a filter after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead.

Contact your water company to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead. Your area's water company can also provide information about the lead levels in your system's drinking water.

For more information about lead in drinking water, please contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have other questions about lead poisoning prevention, call 1-800 424-LEAD.\*

Call your local health department or water company to find out about testing your water, or visit [epa.gov/safewater](https://epa.gov/safewater) for EPA's lead in drinking water information. Some states or utilities offer programs to pay for water testing for residents. Contact your state or local water company to learn more.

---

\* Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

## Other Sources of Lead, continued

---

- **Lead smelters** or other industries that release lead into the air.
- **Your job.** If you work with lead, you could bring it home on your body or clothes. Shower and change clothes before coming home. Launder your work clothes separately from the rest of your family's clothes.
- **Hobbies** that use lead, such as making pottery or stained glass, or refinishing furniture. Call your local health department for information about hobbies that may use lead.
- Old **toys** and **furniture** may have been painted with lead-containing paint. Older toys and other children's products may have parts that contain lead.<sup>4</sup>
- Food and liquids cooked or stored in **lead crystal** or **lead-glazed pottery or porcelain** may contain lead.
- Folk remedies, such as "**greta**" and "**azarcon**," used to treat an upset stomach.

---

<sup>4</sup> In 1978, the federal government banned toys, other children's products, and furniture with lead-containing paint. In 2008, the federal government banned lead in most children's products. The federal government currently bans lead in excess of 100 ppm by weight in most children's products.

## For More Information

---

### **The National Lead Information Center**

Learn how to protect children from lead poisoning and get other information about lead hazards on the Web at [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead) and [hud.gov/lead](http://hud.gov/lead), or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)**.

### **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline**

For information about lead in drinking water, call **1-800-426-4791**, or visit [epa.gov/safewater](http://epa.gov/safewater) for information about lead in drinking water.

### **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Hotline**

For information on lead in toys and other consumer products, or to report an unsafe consumer product or a product-related injury, call **1-800-638-2772**, or visit CPSC's website at [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) or [saferproducts.gov](http://saferproducts.gov).

### **State and Local Health and Environmental Agencies**

Some states, tribes, and cities have their own rules related to lead-based paint. Check with your local agency to see which laws apply to you. Most agencies can also provide information on finding a lead abatement firm in your area, and on possible sources of financial aid for reducing lead hazards. Receive up-to-date address and phone information for your state or local contacts on the Web at [epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead), or contact the National Lead Information Center at **1-800-424-LEAD**.

Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access any of the phone numbers in this brochure through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at **1-800-877-8339**.

## U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Offices

---

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Your Regional EPA Office can provide further information regarding regulations and lead protection programs.

**Region 1** (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, OES 05-4  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
(888) 372-7341

**Region 2** (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue  
Building 205, Mail Stop 225  
Edison, NJ 08837-3679  
(732) 906-6809

**Region 3** (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, DC, West Virginia)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 3  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 814-2088

**Region 4** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
AFC Tower, 12th Floor, Air, Pesticides & Toxics  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 562-8998

**Region 5** (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 5 (LL-17J)  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3666  
(312) 353-3808

**Region 6** (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and 66 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
(214) 665-2704

**Region 7** (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 7  
11201 Renner Blvd.  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
(800) 223-0425

**Region 8** (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop St.  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 312-6966

**Region 9** (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (CMD-4-2)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 947-4280

**Region 10** (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 10 (20-C04)  
Air and Toxics Enforcement Section  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-1200

## Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

---

The CPSC protects the public against unreasonable risk of injury from consumer products through education, safety standards activities, and enforcement. Contact CPSC for further information regarding consumer product safety and regulations.

### CPSC

4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4421  
1-800-638-2772  
[cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) or [saferproducts.gov](http://saferproducts.gov)

## U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

---

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. Contact to Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes for further information regarding the Lead Safe Housing Rule, which protects families in pre-1978 assisted housing, and for the lead hazard control and research grant programs.

### HUD

451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8236  
Washington, DC 20410-3000  
(202) 402-7698  
[hud.gov/lead](http://hud.gov/lead)

---

This document is in the public domain. It may be produced by an individual or organization without permission. Information provided in this booklet is based upon current scientific and technical understanding of the issues presented and is reflective of the jurisdictional boundaries established by the statutes governing the co-authoring agencies. Following the advice given will not necessarily provide complete protection in all situations or against all health hazards that can be caused by lead exposure.

---

# IMPORTANT!

## **Lead From Paint, Dust, and Soil in and Around Your Home Can Be Dangerous if Not Managed Properly**

- Children under 6 years old are most at risk for lead poisoning in your home.
- Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.
- Homes, schools, and child care facilities built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Even children who seem healthy may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.
- Disturbing surfaces with lead-based paint or removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.
- People can get lead into their bodies by breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.
- People have many options for reducing lead hazards. Generally, lead-based paint that is in good condition is not a hazard (see page 10).



# Working Together for Home Fire Safety

## A Factsheet on Home Fire Prevention

**M**ore than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and 20,000 are injured. An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire. It's not a question of luck. It's a matter of planning ahead.

### EVERY HOME SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE WORKING SMOKE ALARM

Buy a smoke alarm at any hardware or discount store. It's inexpensive protection for you and your family. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. A working smoke alarm can double your chances of survival. Test it monthly, keep it free of dust and replace the battery at least once a year. Smoke alarms themselves should be replaced after ten years of service, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

### PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas. Immediately shut off and unplug appliances that sputter, spark or emit an unusual smell. Have them professionally repaired or replaced.

### USE APPLIANCES WISELY

When using appliances follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Overheating, unusual smells, shorts and sparks are all warning signs that appliances need to be shut off, then replaced or repaired. Unplug appliances when not in use. Use safety caps to cover all unused outlets, especially if there are small children in the home.



### ALTERNATE HEATERS

- Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
- Keep fire in the fireplace. Use fire screens and have your chimney cleaned annually. The creosote buildup can ignite a chimney fire that could easily spread.
- Kerosene heaters should be used only where approved by authorities. Never use gasoline or camp-stove fuel. Refuel outside and only after the heater has cooled.

### AFFORDABLE HOME FIRE SAFETY SPRINKLERS

When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable--they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.

### PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out then call for help.

### CARING FOR CHILDREN

Children under five are naturally curious about fire. Many play with matches and lighters. Tragically, children set over 20,000 house fires every year. Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

### CARING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Every year over 1,200 senior citizens die in fires. Many of these fire deaths could have been prevented. Seniors are especially vulnerable because many live alone and can't respond quickly.

#### For more information contact:

The U. S. Fire Administration  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

or

Visit the USFA Web site:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)



**Homeland Security**



# SAVE ENERGY IN YOUR HOME

## *A Factsheet on Saving Energy*

**P**lanning ahead can save you money and alleviate frustration with high utility bills. Here are some tips to help protect your hard earned dollars:

- Remove window air conditioners for the winter and close the window. If the air conditioner cannot be removed, weatherize it with a properly fitting air conditioning cover.
- Keep all vents (air conditioning, heating and/or exhaust) free from debris and remove any item that blocks the flow of air.
- Replace screens with storm (glass) windows in winter months. If you do not have storm windows, use clear plastic, tightly sealed on the inside of the windows.
- Replace or clean air/heat filters monthly. Dirty filters block air flow.
- Do not block vents with furniture.
- Save 10% on energy costs when you install weather-stripping or caulk leaky doors and windows, and install gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Set your thermostat at one temperature (around 77°) and leave it alone when running the air conditioning. It takes more energy to heat or cool an area than it does to maintain a constant temperature.
- In winter, set your thermostat at about 68°. For every degree you lower your heat, you save up to 5% in heating costs. At night, turn the heat down to 55°, but never turn your thermostat below 50° when the home is unoccupied. Heat pumps should only be set back two degrees to prevent unneeded use of backup strip heating.
- Wear warm clothing in winter.
- Open window coverings in the daytime to let the sun heat your home and close them at sundown to insulate.
- Lock your windows so they will seal better.
- Keep doors and windows closed to keep the central air/heat inside.
- Rearrange your furniture so you are sitting by interior walls. The temperature is more constant on interior walls.
- Close doors to other parts of the house and turn down the thermostat when using the fireplace.
- Remember that fireplaces lose up to 8% of your energy. Keep the damper closed when not in use.
- Turn lights off and shut the doors in unoccupied rooms.
- Use as much natural light as possible.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. They use 75% less energy.
- Turn kitchen and bathroom ventilating fans off after cooking.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator several times a year and leave enough room behind and on the sides of the unit for air to circulate.
- A second refrigerator can add as much as 10 to 15% to your energy bill.
- Only use your oven's self-cleaning feature when your oven is already hot.
- Over 2/3 of your water heating costs are from showers. Cutting your shower time in half will reduce your costs by up to 33%.
- Lower the temperature of your hot water heater to a comfortable yet economical level. Use the "normal" setting, or 120°, (unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting), and save up to 11% of the cost of heating your water.
- Drain a bucketful of water from the water heater several times a year to protect against mineral buildup.
- Insulate the first five feet of pipe coming out of the top of your water heater. Pipe insulation is available from your hardware store.
- Only run full loads of dishes or clothes in your appliances.
- Use cold water to wash, and reduce the washer's energy use by 75%.
- Use only cold water in the garbage disposal.
- Keep the lint trap in the dryer clean and use the moisture-sensing automatic drying setting on your dryer.



# **MARYLAND TENANTS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

**(EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025)**

Maryland law requires the Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs to publish a Tenants' Bill of Rights and update it by June 1 each year. Landlords must attach the latest version of this document to every residential lease. (Housing and Community Development Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 5-101 through 5-104 and Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Section 8-208)

This document summarizes significant rights of tenants under Maryland law. It is not a complete list of every tenant right. It does not cover every detail, exception, or difference that may apply on a case-by-case basis.

Additional information may be available through:

- The Maryland Code references listed with each right or other applicable laws
- Independent research
- Consulting with an attorney

Some local jurisdictions within the state may offer additional rights to residential tenants. But the rights in this Maryland Tenants' Bill of Rights apply to all residential tenants in Maryland.

This is general information and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to speak with an attorney if you have questions about your rights as a tenant. Contact information for legal services is listed at the end of this bill of rights.

## **1. RENTAL APPLICATIONS**

A landlord who rents five or more units may not charge more than \$25 in fees, outside of a security deposit.

Some landlords may choose to accept a tenant screening report prepared in the previous 30 days by a consumer reporting agency which the tenant obtains and pays for. If a landlord accepts such a report from you, the landlord may not charge you an application fee.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-213 and 8-218)

## **2. LEASES & TENANCIES**

A landlord that rents five or more units in Maryland is required to use a written lease. If the landlord does not use a written lease, tenancy is presumed to be 1 year from the tenant's first use of the unit.

However, if your landlord does give you a written lease, it must include:

- A statement of the condition of the property
- An explanation of who is responsible for utility bills and property repairs
- A receipt for your security deposit
- A copy of the most recent version of the Maryland Tenants' Bill of Rights
- Contact information for the landlord or the contact information of an agent authorized to receive notices and service of process on the landlord's behalf.

A landlord that rents four or fewer units in the state is not required to use a written lease.

Some local jurisdictions may require additional information in leases.

A lease may not include:

- Requires you to allow the landlord to "confess judgment" on a claim arising out of the lease;
- Anything that says you give up your legal rights under the law or your right to a jury trial
- Any provision that shortens any notice period required by law
- Any other provision identified in Section 8-208 of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, or any other provision otherwise prohibited by law

An automatic renewal term in a lease must:

- Be separate from other parts of the lease
- Be signed or acknowledged by you separately

For the landlord to end your tenancy:

- For a written lease with a stated term, the landlord must notify you in writing at least 60 days before terminating the tenancy
- For month-to-month periodic tenancies, the landlord must notify you in writing at least 60 days before terminating the tenancy
- For year-to-year periodic tenancies, the landlord must notify you in writing at least 90 days before the tenancy ends

For you to end your tenancy:

- For leases with a stated term, month-to-month tenancies, and all other tenancies but a year-to-year tenancy, you must notify your landlord in writing at least 30 days before terminating the tenancy
- For year-to-year tenancies, you must notify your landlord in writing at least 90 days before terminating the tenancy

- Exceptions to these provisions:
  - Exception #1: If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault and have a protective order or peace order, you have 30 days to vacate the leased premises after giving notice. You are only responsible, however, for rent from the time following the notice, until the date that you vacate, which may be fewer than 30 days. If you vacate in fewer than 30 days after giving notice, you must provide signed, notarized, written notification to the landlord, by first class mail or hand delivery, stating that you vacated the premises.
  - Exception #2: These provisions do not apply in Baltimore City.

If neither side gives notice, your lease may automatically renew or become month-to-month, depending on the terms of your lease. Less common tenancies like week-to-week, year-to-year, or farm tenancies have different notice requirements.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-208, 8-210, and 8-402)

### **3. RENT**

- Rent is due as your lease states.
- If you pay rent late, your landlord can charge a late fee, but it cannot be more than 5% of the late rent amount
- Your landlord must give you a receipt for your rent payment if you pay rent in cash.
- Your landlord may only increase your rent when your lease is renewed. In most cases, they must tell you in writing 90 days in advance of any rent increase. Some local jurisdictions may limit the amount by which rent can be increased, but there is no statewide law that limits rent increases when your lease is renewed.
- Your landlord can provide notice of a rent increase by email, text, or electronic tenant portal only if you have agreed to receive notices electronically.
- If you pay utilities directly to your landlord, your landlord must give you copies of the monthly utility bills.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-205, 8-205.1, and 8-208)

### **4. SECURITY DEPOSITS**

In most cases, a landlord may not require you to pay a security deposit higher than one month's rent. But your security deposit may be up to two months' rent. If you qualify for utility assistance from the Department of Human Services and lease agreement requires that you make payments for utility services directly to your landlord.,

A "security deposit" is any payment you give to the landlord to cover things like breaking the lease, damage to the property, or unpaid rent, including pet deposits.

Your landlord may not require you to pay more than the sum of the first month's rent and the security deposit before you move in.

The landlord must keep your security deposit in an interest-paying bank account and give you a written receipt, which must be included with the written lease. The landlord must advise you about your rights and the landlord's responsibilities relating to the security deposit when you pay the security deposit.

At the end of your tenancy, your landlord must provide you with a written list of any charges deducted from the security deposit. They must return the rest of your deposit with interest within 45 days.

If you plan to move out, you must send your landlord a certified letter at least 15 days before leaving. The letter should say you're moving and give your new address. If you do this, you have the right to be present when the landlord inspects your unit for damage that may reduce your security deposit.

Charges a landlord may legally deduct your security deposit include

- Damage to the property beyond normal wear and tear
- Unpaid rent or utility bills
- Costs or fees from an eviction case judgment

If the landlord does not return your deposit or give you a written list of charges within 45 days after you move out, they may lose the right to keep any of the deposit. You may also be able to get up to three times any amounts they unlawfully did not return.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-203 and 8-203.1)

## **5. CONDITION OF RENTAL UNITS**

Every rental property must be "fit for human habitation," meaning that it is safe and suitable for people to live in and free from problems (serious defects or conditions) that could cause a fire or that are a serious and substantial threat to your life, health or safety.

If you find such a problem, notify your landlord in writing right away. You must provide your landlord with access to your property to make repairs.

If your landlord doesn't fix the problem within a reasonable time after you provide notice, you have options: you can bring suit in the District Court for damages and a decrease in rent, or you may refuse to pay rent (and then raise the issues as a defense to the landlord's suit for rent). . You may also file a rent escrow case, through which you pay rent into the court instead of the landlord.

You have the right to basic services, including heat, light, electricity, hot and cold running water, and proper sewage disposal. Depending on the specific safety or living condition problems in your unit (for example in the case of lead paint), you may

- Have the right for temporary relocation assistance from the landlord
- Take legal action if your landlord does not assist with safe relocation

If the issue is not dangerous but violates local housing codes, you may contact your local code enforcement office if your landlord does not respond.

You have the right to quiet enjoyment of your rental unit for the duration of your tenancy as well as the right to move in and use the unit starting on the date listed in your lease.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-204, 8-211, and 8-212)

## **6. EVICTIONS**

If you violate your lease, don't pay rent on time, or don't move out when your lease ends, your landlord may start the eviction process by filing a case in the District Court.

Your landlord may not evict you unless the District Court has given the landlord the right to the property (called a judgment of possession) and issued an order to remove you (called a warrant of restitution). Efforts to evict you include changing the locks, shutting off utilities, or other similar actions to prevent your access to the unit or ability to live safely in the unit.

You have the right to attend any court hearing in an eviction case brought against you by a landlord. You may also have the right to have an attorney provided to represent you if you are unable to afford one.

If you owe rent, your landlord must notify you in writing at least 10 days before filing an eviction case for failure to pay rent against you in District Court. The 10 day notice requirement is not required for other types of eviction filings, such as a lease violation or staying in the rental unit longer than the time allowed by your lease.

If judgment is entered against you for failing to pay rent, you have four days to appeal that decision to the Circuit Court.

In most cases, you can stop the eviction by paying all past-due amounts and any court costs the court orders you to pay before the eviction is carried out. This is called the "right of redemption."

However, redemption is not an option if you have had 3 (4 in Baltimore City) or more eviction judgments for unpaid rent in the 12 months before the current case.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 8-401, 8-402, 8-402.1, and 8-902)

## **7. CONSTRUCTIVE EVICTIONS**

In Maryland, constructive eviction occurs when a landlord's actions - or failure to act – make it difficult for a tenant to use and enjoy their rental unit, forcing the tenant to move out.

In order to successfully claim constructive eviction, a tenant must prove several things, such as the landlord's actions or neglect significantly disrupted the tenant's use and enjoyment of the property, the landlord is responsible for the interference, the tenant told the landlord about the issue, and the tenant moved out a reasonable time after the interference. If you are interested in pursuing a claim for constructive eviction, you should consult with an attorney.

If constructive eviction is proven (1) You can treat your lease as ended and you are no longer responsible for paying rent; and (2) you may be able to sue the landlord for your losses. This may include moving costs, rent differences, attorney fees, and other related expenses resulting from the constructive eviction claim.

Landlords must avoid substantial interference with the tenant's enjoyment of their rental property, ensure the rental property is safe and livable, and generally respond to tenant complaints promptly to avoid legal and financial consequences.

## **8. TENANT RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL**

If you are a named tenant on the lease and have lived in a rental property with 1, 2, or 3 units for at least six months, your landlord may be required to give you the chance to buy the property before selling it to someone else. This applies if your landlord plans to sell the property, or receives an offer to buy it from a third party. This rule does not apply in certain situations, such as when the property is transferred without a sale; for example, when the property is transferred to a family member, to a business owned by the landlord, or pursuant to a court order, among several other examples. .

If your landlord notifies you that they intend to sell the property to a third party, the notice should also include your right to make an offer to buy it. You have 30 days from the date of the notice to make an offer to buy the property or decline.

If you make an offer with the same or better terms than those in the notice, your landlord must accept it. If you decline to make an offer, your landlord may sell the property to a third party.

Some local jurisdictions may have their own laws about a tenant's right of first refusal or the opportunity to buy a rental property in cases not covered by state law.

(Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Section 8-119)

## 9. PROHIBITED ACTS BY LANDLORDS

Housing discrimination is illegal under state and federal law. Landlords may not discriminate against potential or current tenants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, source of income, or military status. Some local jurisdictions may provide additional anti-discrimination protections.

A landlord may not retaliate, or threaten to retaliate, against you for

- a. making a good faith complaint about a violation of your lease, violation of the law, or the condition of the rental property;
- b. filing or participating in a lawsuit involving the landlord;
- c. participating in a tenants' organization;
- d. requesting police or emergency services at the property; or
- e. providing information to the landlord relating to lead paint issues.

Retaliation may include filing or threatening to file a lawsuit against you, increasing the rent, decreasing the services to you as a tenant (for example, shutting off utilities), failing to make necessary repairs, or terminating your tenancy, among other things.

Unless your lease provides otherwise, you have the right to quiet enjoyment of your residence. Your landlord has the right to enter your unit for legitimate purposes such as making necessary repairs, inspecting the unit, or showing the unit to prospective renters. Starting October 1, 2025, your landlord must notify you in writing at least 24 hours in advance of the inspection or repairs and can only enter the unit Monday through Saturday, from 7am to 7pm, unless it is an emergency. Your lease may provide more details, and your local jurisdiction may have more rules on when your landlord may enter your unit.

(Title 42, Sections 3601 and following of the United States Code; State Government Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 20-101, 20-704, and 20-705; Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, Sections 2-115, 8-204, 8-208.1, and 8-208.2)

Exceptions to the protections of these laws exist in certain circumstances.

The Maryland Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs website has additional language translations of the Tenant Bill of Rights on the website listed below.

## 10. RESOURCES

### Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs

#### Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

[Tenant and Landlord Affairs Website](https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Tenant-Landlord-Affairs/Pages/default.aspx) (<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Tenant-Landlord-Affairs/Pages/default.aspx>)

The Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs website has additional educational information and support staff for navigating renter rights and laws, including:

- Contact information for local legal aid organizations
- Contact information for local county offices of tenant rights
- Contact information for local homeless services and rental assistance programs if you have already lost your housing
- Frequently asked questions and answers for tenants and landlords
- Outreach materials for tenants and landlords
- How to report a case of fair housing discrimination or landlord violation of federal, state, or local renter laws to enforcement agencies

### Maryland Access to Counsel in Evictions Program

Contact Information: Call 211 or go to [Legal Help Maryland](https://www.legalhelpmd.org) (LegalHelpMD.org)

Services Provided:

- This program can provide legal representation and advice to renters who have household income at or below 50% of Maryland's median income, and the household is at risk of eviction, have lost or are at risk of losing their housing voucher or subsidy.

### Maryland District Court Self-Help Centers

Contact Information and Hours: [District Court Help Centers](https://www.courts.state.md.us/helpcenter/inperson/dc)  
(<https://www.courts.state.md.us/helpcenter/inperson/dc>)

Services Provided:

- The self-help centers can assist renters with a landlord-tenant issue or case who are not already represented by a lawyer or attorney.
- The centers offer live chat, phone, and in-person services at 10 district court locations.
- Renters can receive help with understanding court documents, preparing for court hearings, completing court forms, preparing for mediation, and finding a lawyer.



**A BRIEF GUIDE TO**  
**MOLD,**  
**MOISTURE,**  
**AND**  
**YOUR HOME**

**This Guide provides  
information and guidance  
for homeowners and  
renters on how to clean  
up residential mold  
problems and how to  
prevent mold growth.**

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Air and Radiation  
Indoor Environments Division  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Mailcode: 6609J  
Washington, DC 20460  
[www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq)*

# A BRIEF GUIDE TO MOLD, MOISTURE, AND YOUR HOME

| Contents                                                                  | Page |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Mold Basics</b>                                                        |      |
| Why is mold growing in my home?                                           | 2    |
| Can mold cause health problems?                                           | 2    |
| How do I get rid of mold?                                                 | 3    |
| <b>Mold Cleanup</b>                                                       |      |
| Who should do the cleanup?                                                | 4    |
| <b>Mold Cleanup Guidelines</b>                                            | 6    |
| <b>What to Wear When Cleaning Moldy Areas</b>                             | 8    |
| <b>How Do I Know When the Remediation<br/>    or Cleanup is Finished?</b> | 9    |
| <b>Moisture and Mold Prevention and Control Tips</b>                      | 10   |
| Actions that will help to reduce humidity                                 | 11   |
| Actions that will help prevent condensation                               | 12   |
| Testing or sampling for mold                                              | 13   |
| <b>Hidden Mold</b>                                                        | 14   |
| <b>Cleanup and Biocides</b>                                               | 15   |
| <b>Additional Resources</b>                                               | 16   |



# MOLD BASICS

- The key to mold control is moisture control.
- If mold is a problem in your home, you should clean up the mold promptly *and* fix the water problem.
- It is important to dry water-damaged areas and items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.



## Why is mold growing in my home?



*Mold growing outdoors on firewood. Molds come in many colors; both white and black molds are shown here.*

Molds are part of the natural environment. Outdoors, molds play a part in nature by breaking down dead organic matter such as fallen leaves and dead trees, but indoors, mold growth should be avoided. Molds reproduce by means of tiny spores; the spores are invisible to the naked eye and float through outdoor and indoor air. Mold may begin growing indoors when mold spores land on surfaces that are wet. There are many types of mold, and none of them will grow without water or moisture.

## Can mold cause health problems?

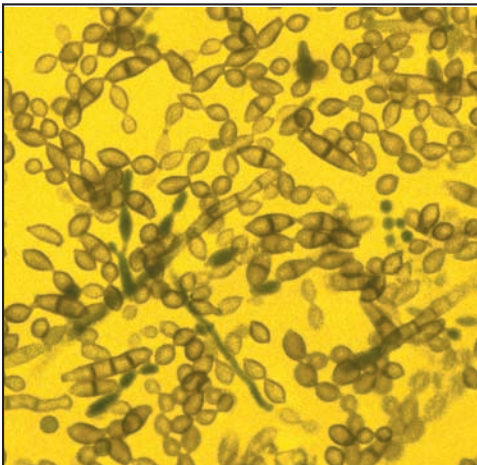
Molds are usually not a problem indoors, unless mold spores land on a wet or damp spot and begin growing. Molds have the potential to cause health problems. Molds produce allergens (substances that can cause allergic reactions), irritants, and in some cases, potentially toxic substances (mycotoxins).

Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash (dermatitis). Allergic reactions to mold are common. They can be immediate or delayed. Molds can also cause asthma attacks in people with asthma who are allergic to mold. In addition, mold exposure can irritate the eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs of both mold-

allergic and non-allergic people. Symptoms other than the allergic and irritant types are not commonly reported as a result of inhaling mold.

Research on mold and health effects is ongoing. This brochure provides a brief overview; it does not describe all potential health effects related to mold exposure. For more detailed information consult a health professional. You may also wish to consult your state or local health department.

**How do I get rid of mold?** It is impossible to get rid of all mold and mold spores indoors; some mold spores will be found floating through the air and in house dust. The mold spores will not grow if moisture is not present. Indoor mold growth can and should be prevented or controlled by controlling moisture indoors. If there is mold growth in your home, you must clean up the mold **and** fix the water problem. If you clean up the mold, but don't fix the water problem, then, most likely, the mold problem will come back.



*Magnified mold spores.*

**Molds can gradually destroy the things they grow on. You can prevent damage to your home and furnishings, save money, and avoid potential health problems by controlling moisture and eliminating mold growth.**

# MOLD

## CLEANUP



*Leaky window – mold is beginning to rot the wooden frame and windowsill.*

If you already have a mold problem –  
**ACT QUICKLY.**  
Mold damages what it grows on. The longer it grows, the more damage it can cause.

**Who should do the cleanup?** Who should do the cleanup depends on a number of factors. One consideration is the size of the mold problem. If the moldy area is less than about 10 square feet (less than roughly a 3 ft. by 3 ft. patch), in most cases, you can handle the job yourself, following the guidelines below. However:

- If there has been a lot of water damage, and/or mold growth covers more than 10 square feet, consult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guide: *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*. Although focused on schools and commercial

buildings, this document is applicable to other building types. It is available on the Internet at: [www.epa.gov/mold](http://www.epa.gov/mold).

- If you choose to hire a contractor (or other professional service provider) to do the cleanup, make sure the contractor has experience cleaning up mold. Check references and ask the contractor to follow the recommendations in EPA's *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*, the guidelines of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), or other guidelines from professional or government organizations.
- If you suspect that the heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) system may be contaminated with mold (it is part of an identified moisture problem, for instance, or there is mold near the intake to the system), consult EPA's guide *Should You Have the Air Ducts in Your Home Cleaned?* before taking further action. Do not run the HVAC system if you know or suspect that it is contaminated with mold - it could spread mold throughout the building. Visit [www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs) to download a copy of the EPA guide.
- If the water and/or mold damage was caused by sewage or other contaminated water, then call in a professional who has experience cleaning and fixing buildings damaged by contaminated water.
- If you have health concerns, consult a health professional before starting cleanup.

# MOLD **CLEANUP** GUIDELINES

## BATHROOM TIP

Places that are often or always damp can be hard to maintain completely free of mold. If there's some mold in the shower or elsewhere in the bathroom that seems to reappear, increasing the ventilation (running a fan or opening a window) and cleaning more frequently will usually prevent mold from recurring, or at least keep the mold to a minimum.



**Tips and techniques** The tips and techniques presented in this section will help you clean up your mold problem. Professional cleaners or remediators may use methods not covered in this publication. Please note that mold may cause staining and cosmetic damage. It may not be possible to clean an item so that its original appearance is restored.

- Fix plumbing leaks and other water problems as soon as possible. Dry all items completely.
- Scrub mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water, and dry completely.

*Mold growing on the underside of a plastic lawnchair in an area where rainwater drips through and deposits organic material.*



*Mold growing on a piece of ceiling tile.*



- Absorbent or porous materials, such as ceiling tiles and carpet, may have to be thrown away if they become moldy. Mold can grow on or fill in the empty spaces and crevices of porous materials, so the mold may be difficult or impossible to remove completely.
- Avoid exposing yourself or others to mold (see discussions: **What to Wear When Cleaning Moldy Areas** and **Hidden Mold**.)
- Do not paint or caulk moldy surfaces. Clean up the mold and dry the surfaces before painting. Paint applied over moldy surfaces is likely to peel.
- If you are unsure about how to clean an item, or if the item is expensive or of sentimental value, you may wish to consult a specialist. Specialists in furniture repair, restoration, painting, art restoration and conservation, carpet and rug cleaning, water damage, and fire or water restoration are commonly listed in phone books. Be sure to ask for and check references. Look for specialists who are affiliated with professional organizations.

# WHAT TO WEAR WHEN CLEANING MOLDY AREAS



*Mold growing on a suitcase stored in a humid basement.*

It is important  
to take  
precautions to  
**LIMIT  
YOUR  
EXPOSURE**  
to mold and  
mold spores.

- **Avoid breathing in mold or mold spores.** In order to limit your exposure to airborne mold, you may want to wear an N-95 respirator, available at many hardware stores and from companies that advertise on the Internet. (They cost about \$12 to \$25.) Some N-95 respirators resemble a paper dust mask with a nozzle on the front, others are made primarily of plastic or rubber and have removable cartridges that trap most of the mold spores from entering. In order to be effective, the respirator or mask must fit properly, so carefully follow the instructions supplied with the respirator. Please note that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that respirators fit properly (fit testing) when used in an occupational setting; consult OSHA for more information (800-321-OSHA or [osha.gov/](http://osha.gov/)).

- **Wear gloves.** Long gloves that extend to the middle of the forearm are recommended. When working with water and a mild detergent, ordinary household rubber gloves may be used. If you are using a disinfectant, a biocide such as chlorine bleach, or a strong cleaning solution, you should select gloves made from natural rubber, neoprene, nitrile, polyurethane, or PVC (see **Cleanup and Biocides**). Avoid touching mold or moldy items with your bare hands.
- **Wear goggles.** Goggles that do not have ventilation holes are recommended. Avoid getting mold or mold spores in your eyes.



*Cleaning while wearing N-95 respirator, gloves, and goggles.*

## **How do I know when the remediation or cleanup is finished?**

- You must have completely fixed the water or moisture problem before the cleanup or remediation can be considered finished.
- You should have completed mold removal. Visible mold and moldy odors should not be present. Please note that mold may cause staining and cosmetic damage.
  - You should have revisited the site(s) shortly after cleanup and it should show no signs of water damage or mold growth.
  - People should have been able to occupy or re-occupy the area without health complaints or physical symptoms.
  - Ultimately, this is a judgment call; there is no easy answer.

# MOISTURE AND MOLD **PREVENTION** AND CONTROL TIPS

## MOISTURE Control is the Key to **Mold Control**



*Mold growing  
on the surface  
of a unit  
ventilator.*

- When water leaks or spills occur indoors - **ACT QUICKLY.**  
If wet or damp materials or areas are dried 24-48 hours after a leak or spill happens, in most cases mold will not grow.
- Clean and repair roof gutters regularly.
- Make sure the ground slopes away from the building foundation, so that water does not enter or collect around the foundation.
- Keep air conditioning drip pans clean and the drain lines unobstructed and flowing properly.



*Condensation on the inside of a window-pane.*

- Keep indoor humidity low. If possible, keep indoor humidity below 60 percent (ideally between 30 and 50 percent) relative humidity. Relative humidity can be measured with a moisture or humidity meter, a small, inexpensive (\$10-\$50) instrument available at many hardware stores.

- If you see condensation or moisture collecting on windows, walls or pipes - ACT QUICKLY to dry the wet surface and reduce the moisture/water source. Condensation can be a sign of high humidity.

### **Actions that will help to reduce humidity:**

- 💧 Vent appliances that produce moisture, such as clothes dryers, stoves, and kerosene heaters to the outside where possible. (Combustion appliances such as stoves and kerosene heaters produce water vapor and will increase the humidity unless vented to the outside.)
- 💧 Use air conditioners and/or de-humidifiers when needed.
- 💧 Run the bathroom fan or open the window when showering. Use exhaust fans or open windows whenever cooking, running the dishwasher or dishwashing, etc.

### **Actions that will help prevent condensation:**

- ◆ Reduce the humidity (see preceeding page).
- ◆ Increase ventilation or air movement by opening doors and/or windows, when practical. Use fans as needed.
- ◆ Cover cold surfaces, such as cold water pipes, with insulation.
- ◆ Increase air temperature.

*Mold growing on a wooden headboard in a room with high humidity.*



**Renters:** Report all plumbing leaks and moisture problems immediately to your building owner, manager, or superintendent. In cases where persistent water problems are not addressed, you may want to contact local, state, or federal health or housing authorities.



*Rust is an indicator that condensation occurs on this drainpipe. The pipe should be insulated to prevent condensation.*

**Testing or sampling for mold** Is sampling for mold needed? **In most cases, if visible mold growth is present, sampling is unnecessary.** Since no EPA or other federal limits have been set for mold or mold spores, sampling cannot be used to check a building's compliance with federal mold standards. Surface sampling may be useful to determine if an area has been

adequately cleaned or remediated. Sampling for mold should be conducted by professionals who have specific experience in designing mold sampling protocols, sampling methods, and interpreting results. Sample analysis should follow analytical methods recommended by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), or other professional organizations.

# HIDDEN MOLD

*Mold growing on the back side of wallpaper.*



**Suspicion of hidden mold** You may suspect hidden mold if a building smells moldy, but you cannot see the source, or if you know there has been water damage and residents are reporting health problems. Mold may be hidden in places such as the back side of dry wall, wallpaper, or paneling, the top side of ceiling tiles, the underside of carpets and pads, etc. Other possible locations of hidden mold include areas inside walls around pipes (with leaking or condensing pipes), the surface of walls behind furniture (where condensation forms), inside ductwork, and in roof materials above ceiling tiles (due to roof leaks or insufficient insulation).

**Investigating hidden mold problems** Investigating hidden mold problems may be difficult and will require caution when the investigation involves disturbing potential sites of mold growth. For example, removal of wallpaper can lead to a massive release of spores if there is mold growing on the underside of the paper. If you believe that you may have a hidden mold problem, consider hiring an experienced professional.

**Cleanup and Biocides** Biocides are substances that can destroy living organisms. The use of a chemical or biocide that kills organisms such as mold (chlorine bleach, for example) is not recommended as a routine practice during mold cleanup. There may be instances, however, when professional judgment may indicate its use (for example, when immune-compromised individuals are present). In most cases, it is not possible or desirable to sterilize an area; a background level of mold spores will remain - these spores will not grow if the moisture problem has been resolved. If you choose to use disinfectants or biocides, always ventilate the area and exhaust the air to the outdoors. Never mix chlorine bleach solution with other cleaning solutions or detergents that contain ammonia because toxic fumes could be produced.

**Please note:** Dead mold may still cause allergic reactions in some people, so it is not enough to simply kill the mold, it must also be removed.

*Water stain on a basement wall — locate and fix the source of the water promptly.*



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information on mold related issues including mold cleanup and moisture control/condensation/humidity issues, visit:

**[www.epa.gov/mold](http://www.epa.gov/mold)**



*Mold growing on fallen leaves.*

*This document is available on the Environmental Protection Agency, Indoor Environments Division website at: [www.epa.gov/mold](http://www.epa.gov/mold)*

# NOTES

## Acknowledgements

EPA would like to thank Paul Ellringer, PE, CIH, for providing the photo on page 14.

Please note that this document presents recommendations. EPA does not regulate mold or mold spores in indoor air.

