



WHAT IS LEAD?

WHY IS IT A

SERIOUS PROBLEM?

Lead is a toxic metal that was used for many years in paint, gasoline and plumbing. It is very dangerous for children under the age of six, because lead is more readily absorbed into their blood and stored more easily in their bones and internal organs.

Ingestion of even small amounts of flaking lead paint can damage young children's developing brain and other organs. Lead poisoned children can suffer from permanent learning disabilities, life-long behavioral problems, hearing problems, developmental delays and other serious health conditions.

These local banks support the City's effort to make more Cambridge homes lead-safe and are ready to provide loans for lead abatement work to qualified applicants.





For more information on Lead-Safe Housing, please visit www.cambridgema.gov



The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government.



PROTECT

YOUR FAMILY

FROM LEAD PAINT

POISONING

WHAT IS THE MASSACHUSETTS LEAD LAW?

In accordance with Massachusetts law, any apartment unit or single family home with an occupant who is less than six years old must be delead, regardless of the child's blood lead level or whether the property is owner occupied. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) defines deleading as the "removal or covering of lead violations." Not all lead paint must be removed or covered. After deleading is completed, homes are "lead-safe," not "lead-free."

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Cambridge Public Health Department

www.cambridgepublichealth.org | Lead Safe Kids: 617-665-3831 (English) 617-665-3863 (Spanish/Portuguese) | 119 Windsor St., Ground Level. Cambridge, MA 02139

- "Lead-Safe Kids" program provides outreach and education about lead poisoning and abatement options to families with children under age 6.
- Assists families with arranging inspections, applying for abatement funding, and identifying an abatement contractor.
- Coordinates intervention effort upon receipt of a report of unsafe work practices that blow paint dust and chips into neighboring yards or properties.

CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



www.cambridgema.gov/hrc | 617-349-4396 | 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor. Cambridge, MA 02139

- Enforces the City's Fair Housing Ordinance when families with children and pregnant women are denied housing due to the presence of lead paint.
- CHRC will investigate the complaint. No cost. No questions about immigration status of Complainant.
- Complaints can be based upon:
 - » Refusal to rent to families
 - » Refusal to renew leases when woman is pregnant
 - » Advertising discouraging renters due to presence of lead
 - » Steering potential tenants to other properties
 - » Retaliation if lead abatement is requested by tenant
- Remedies if discrimination is found: Require deleading of unit/Require Landlord & Real Estate Agent training/Monetary damages

CAMBRIDGE INSPECTIONAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT



CAMBRIDGE • ISD

www.cambridgema.gov/inspection | 617-349-6100 | 831 Massachusetts Avenue. Cambridge MA 02139

- Offers lead determination testing of rental housing units built prior to 1978 where children under 6 or pregnant woman reside. Lead determination testing screens for units that will require a full lead inspection.
- Refers screened units requiring full lead inspections to the state Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). Enforcement is done in cooperation with CLPPP.
- Provides referral to Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety (DOS) in cases of suspected improper lead abatement practices on housing built prior to 1978.