

LEADS SAFE HOMES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TENANTS

RIHousing has resources available to reduce lead based hazards in your home to ensure it is a safe place for you and your family to live and that it is in compliance with Rhode Island lead laws.

There are no costs associated with this assistance for renters and in most instances it is free for the landlord or property owner too. Below are answers to some of the most common questions we receive from renters.

Q: What is the LeadSafe Homes Program?

A: RIHousing's LeadSafe Homes Program provides remediation for lead-paint based hazards in and outside of your home. Depending on the location of the lead-paint based hazards, this may include new windows and doors, interior and exterior painting, and soil remediation. We also have resources for "healthy home" improvements, such as smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, kitchen or bathroom fans, or repairing a broken railing.

There are no costs associated with this assistance for renters and in most instances it is free for the landlord or property owner too. Property owners undertake this assistance in the form of a loan, which is forgiven after a certain number of years. RIHousing works with both renters and property owners to engage them in this program.

Q: How do I know if my home has lead paint?

A: If your home was built before 1978, the year lead in paint was banned, then there's a good chance lead paint is present. Over 70% of homes in Rhode Island were built before 1978 and likely contain lead paint. The most common sources of lead-paint based hazards are lead contaminated dust, peeling and chipped lead paint and contaminated soil. The best way to know if your home has lead paint is to have an inspector come out and test for it. If your home was built after 1978, there is likely no lead paint.

Q: Are there any costs for tenants and the property owners to participate in this program?

A: There are no out-of-pocket expenses or monthly payments associated with the LeadSafe Homes Program for the tenant or homeowner. In most instances this program is free. Homeowners can qualify for 3-to-5-year forgivable loans for the lead remediation efforts that need to take place on the property. Tenants may need to be relocated for a very short period of time so that contractors can repair the home safely. The LeadSafe Homes Program covers costs associated with relocation, as necessary.

Q: How do you determine if there is lead in the home?

A: The most common sources of lead poisoning are lead contaminated dust, peeling and chipped lead paint, and contaminated soil. Free lead inspections are provided by certified lead inspectors as a LeadSafe Homes Program service!

Q: How can lead affect my health and the health of my child/children?

A: Childhood lead poisoning is one of the most common pediatric health problems, yet it is entirely preventable. Lead exposure can cause irreversible damage, including loss of intelligence, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Pregnant women and children under the age of six are at greater risk for adverse health impacts as a result of lead exposure.

Q: How do I know if I qualify for the LeadSafe Homes Program?

A: If your home was built before 1978 you may be eligible. If you are not the homeowner, your landlord will first need to complete an application for the program. RIHousing can help you tell your landlord about this program, if requested.

Q: I'm not sure how I would approach my landlord about my interest in this program. What are some ways that I can approach the conversation?

A: The best way to approach the conversation with your landlord is to think about the advantages for all involved. Both tenants and property owners benefit from the LeadSafe Homes Program. Here are some program benefits:

- Comfort in knowing your home is healthy and safe for your family
- No out-of-pocket costs or monthly payments for the property owner or tenant(s)
- Significantly reduces the risk of child lead poisoning
- Lead remediation process brings property into compliance with the law
- The program, in most instances, is free

LeadSafe Homes Program staff can assist with facilitating these conversations, and if requested, can reach out to your property owner on your behalf. We find that most property owners welcome the opportunity and are open to exploring the benefits of the program with their tenants.

RIHousing strives to ensure that all people who live in Rhode Island can afford a healthy home that meets their needs. A good home provides the foundation upon which individuals and families thrive, children learn and grow, and communities prosper.

TO APPLY OR GET MORE INFORMATION
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