

## REAL ESTATE CONTRACT

**IT IS AGREED** this Real Estate Contract is executed by and between Chad M. Higdon, Executor of the Estate of Stanley C. Higdon ("Seller"); and \_\_\_\_\_ ("Buyers") on the date set forth below and upon the following terms:

1. **PROPERTY.** Seller agrees to sell and Buyers agree to buy real estate legally described on attached Exhibit A together with any easements and appurtenant servient estates (the "Real Estate"), but subject to the following:

- a. Any zoning and other ordinances;
- b. Any covenants of record;
- c. Any easements of record for public utilities, roads and highways; and
- d. Rights of any tenant occupying the Real Estate pursuant to the terms of Paragraph 19(F), below.

2. **PRICE.** The total purchase price for the Real Estate is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of which a non-refundable payment of 20% thereof (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) has been paid contemporaneously with the execution of this Contract. Buyers shall pay the balance of said purchase price, \$ \_\_\_\_\_, to Seller at Closing in the form of certified funds or by wire transfer to an account identified by Seller.

3. **DEFAULT INTEREST.** Buyers shall pay interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum on all delinquent amounts and any sum reasonably advanced by Seller to protect their interest in this Contract, computed from the date of the delinquency or advance.

4. **REAL ESTATE TAXES.** Seller shall pay real estate taxes prorated to the date of Possession, it being understood the March, 2024 real estate tax installment pays taxes to July 1, 2023 and any unpaid real estate taxes payable in prior years. Buyers shall pay all subsequent real estate taxes. The proration of real estate taxes on the Real Estate shall be based upon such taxes for the year currently payable

5. **SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.** Sellers shall pay all special assessments which are a lien on the Real Estate as of the date of this Contract. All other special assessments shall be paid by Buyers.

6. **POSSESSION AND CLOSING.** Seller shall give Buyers possession of the Real Estate at Closing, provided Buyers are not in default under this Contract. Closing shall be on, or about, July 1, 2024. The Closing shall occur at a place mutually acceptable to the parties and, in the absence of such an agreement, at Fehseke & Gray Law Offices in Fort Madison, Iowa.

7. **INSURANCE.** Seller shall maintain existing insurance upon the Real Estate until the date of possession. Buyers shall accept insurance proceeds instead of Seller replacing or repairing damaged improvements.

8. **ABSTRACT AND TITLE.** Seller, at its expense, shall promptly obtain an abstract of title to the Real Estate continued through the date of this contract and deliver it to Buyers for examination. It shall show merchantable title in Seller in conformity with this contract, Iowa law and the Title Standards

of the Iowa State Bar Association. Seller shall pay the costs of any additional abstracting and title work due to any act or omission of Seller, including transfers by or the death of Seller or its assignees. Buyers shall have the right to occasionally use the abstract prior to full payment of the purchase price. When the purchase price is paid in full, the abstract shall become the property of the Buyers.

**9. FIXTURES.** All property that integrally belongs to or is part of the Real Estate, whether attached or detached, such as light fixtures, shades, rods, blinds, awnings, windows, storm doors, screens, plumbing fixtures, water heaters, water softeners, automatic heating equipment, air conditioning equipment, wall to wall carpeting, built-in items and electrical service cable, outside television towers and antenna, fencing, gates and landscaping shall be considered a part of the Real Estate and shall be included in the sale.

**10. CARE OF PROPERTY.** Until possession of the Real Estate is transferred to Buyers, Seller shall take good care of the property and shall keep the buildings and other improvements now or later placed on the Real Estate in good and reasonable repair. Until possession of the Real Estate is transferred to Buyers, Seller shall not injure or destroy the Real Estate and Sellers shall not make any material alteration to the Real Estate without the prior written consent of Buyers.

**11. DEED.** Upon payment of the purchase price, Seller shall convey the Real Estate to Buyers or their assignees by Court Officer Deed. Said conveyance shall be free and clear of all liens, restrictions, and encumbrances except as provided herein. Any general warranties of title shall extend only to the date of this contract, with special warranties as to the acts of Seller continuing up to time of delivery of the deed.

**12. REMEDIES OF THE PARTIES.** a. If Buyers (a) fail to make the payments aforesaid, or any part thereof, as same become due; or (b) fail to perform any of the agreements as herein made or required; then Seller, in addition to any and all other legal and equitable remedies which it may have and at its sole option may proceed to forfeit and cancel this contract as provided by law (Chapter 656 Code of Iowa). Upon completion of such forfeiture Buyers shall have no right of reclamation or compensation for money paid or improvements made but such payments and/or improvements, if any, shall be retained and kept by Seller as compensation for the use of said property and/or as liquidated damages for breach of this contract. Upon completion of such a forfeiture, if Buyers or any other person(s) shall be in possession of the Real Estate or any part thereof, such party or parties in possession shall at once peacefully remove therefrom or, failing to do so, may be treated as tenants holding over unlawfully after the expiration of a lease and may accordingly be ousted and removed as such in accordance with the laws of the State of Iowa.

b. If Buyers fail to timely perform this contract, Seller, at its sole option, may elect to declare the entire balance immediately due and payable after such notice, if any, as may be required by Chapter 654 of the Code of Iowa. Thereafter this contract may be foreclosed in equity and a court may appoint a receiver to take immediate possession of the property and of the revenues and income accruing therefrom and to rent or cultivate the same as the receiver may deem best for the interest of all parties concerned. Such a receiver shall be liable to account to Buyers only for the net profits, after application of rents, issues and profits from the costs and expenses of the receivership and foreclosure and upon the contract obligation.

It is agreed that if this contract covers less than ten (10) acres of land, and in the event of the foreclosure of this contract and sale of the property by sheriff's sale in such foreclosure proceedings, the time of one year for redemption from said sale provided by the statutes of the State of Iowa shall be reduced to six (6) months provided Seller in such action file an election to waive any deficiency judgment against Buyers which may arise out of the foreclosure proceedings; all to be consistent with the provisions of Chapter 628 of the Iowa Code. If the redemption period is so reduced, for the first three (3) months

after sale such right of redemption shall be exclusive to Buyers and the time periods in Sections 628.5, 628.15 and 628.16 of the Iowa Code shall be reduced to four (4) months.

It is further agreed that the period of redemption after a foreclosure of this contract shall be reduced to sixty (60) days if all of the three following contingencies develop or occur: (1) The Real Estate is less than ten (10) acres in size; (2) a Court finds affirmatively that the said real estate has been abandoned by the owners and those persons personally liable under this contract at the time of such foreclosure; and (3) Seller in such action file an election to waive any deficiency judgment against Buyers or their successor in interest in such action. If the redemption period is so reduced, Buyers, their successors in interest or the owner shall have the exclusive right to redeem for the first thirty (30) days after such sale, and the time provided for redemption by creditors as provided in Sections 628.5, 628.15 and 628.16 of the Iowa Code shall be reduced to forty (40) days. Entry of appearance by pleading or docket entry by or on behalf of Buyers shall be presumption that the property is not abandoned. Any such redemption period shall be consistent with all of the provisions of Chapter 628 of the Iowa Code. This paragraph shall not be construed to limit or otherwise affect any other redemption provisions contained in Chapter 628 of the Iowa Code. Upon completion of such forfeiture Buyers shall have no right of reclamation or compensation for money paid or improvements made; but such payments and improvements, if any, shall be retained and kept by Seller as compensation for the use of said property and/or as liquidated damages for breach of this contract. Upon completion of such forfeiture, if Buyers or any other person(s) shall be in possession of the Real Estate or any part thereof, such party or parties in possession shall at once peacefully remove therefrom or, failing to do so, may be treated as tenants holding over unlawfully after the expiration of a lease and may accordingly be ousted and removed as such and as provided by laws of the State of Iowa.

c. If Seller fails to timely perform their obligations under this contract, Buyers shall have the right to terminate this contract and have all payments made returned to them.

d. Buyers and Seller are also entitled to utilize any and all other remedies or actions at law or in equity available to them.

e. In any action or proceeding relating to this contract the successful party shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

**13. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.** Time is of the essence in this contract.

**14. CONSTRUCTION.** Words and phrases in this contract shall be construed as in the singular or plural number, and as masculine, feminine or neuter gender, according to the context.

**15. CERTIFICATION.** Buyers and Seller each certify that they are not acting, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of any person, group, entity or nation named by any Executive Order or the United States Treasury Department as a terrorist, "Specially Designated National and Blocked Person" or any other banned or blocked person, entity, nation or transaction pursuant to any law, order, rule or regulation that is enforced or administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control; and are not engaged in this transaction, directly or indirectly on behalf of, any such person, group, entity or nation. Each party hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other party from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, risks, liabilities and expenses (including attorney's fees and costs) arising from or related to my breach of the foregoing certification.

**16. CONTRACT SUPERSEDES OTHER AGREEMENTS.** This Contract replaces and supersedes all agreements made between the parties hereto, whether oral or written, prior to the date of this Contract.

**17. APPLICABLE LAW AND COURT.** Any controversy arising out of or in connection with the Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Iowa, and Seller and Buyers consent to the

jurisdiction of the Iowa District Court in and for Lee County at Fort Madison as the sole and exclusive court having jurisdiction for the resolution of all matters.

**18. COUNTERPARTS, ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND REPRODUCTIONS ENFORCEABLE AS ORIGINALS.** This Contract may be executed in separate counterparts, all of which when taken together shall constitute one and the same Contract and any party to this Contract may execute this Contract by signing any such counterpart. A party's signature or mark on or attached to this Contract that is input on an electric signature pad, input on a display screen by means of a stylus device, represented by a digitized image of a handwritten signature, or represented as a digital signature or a mark captured as a scalable graphic electronically stored and/or displayed in any format on tangible media shall be binding on the party making or applying the same in the same manner as an original signature. Each party hereby waives any evidentiary rule or other requirement that this Contract, with "original signatures" within the meaning of the Rules of Evidence, be produced or offered into evidence in any proceeding and each party hereby further acknowledges that a copy of this Contract, howsoever legibly produced or reproduced, shall be deemed the equivalent of an original of this Contract for all evidentiary purposes.

**19. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

- A. **REVENUE STAMPS.** Seller agrees to pay the real estate transfer tax and to affix the stamps for said tax on the deed to be delivered to Buyers when all the terms of this Contract are fully satisfied.
- B. **INSPECTION BY BUYERS/PROPERTY "AS IS".** Buyers acknowledge and represent that the Real Estate has been the subject of an auction and that all of the property subject to this Contract and all of the rules and regulations governing Buyers' use of the subject property have been inspected by Buyers or by agent of Buyers and that said rules and regulations and said property are satisfactory in all respects and that this agreement is made voluntarily by Buyers, relying wholly upon the knowledge and investigation of the Buyers and not upon any statements or representations made by Seller or by any person representing or purporting to represent the Seller. Buyers accept the property subject to this Contract, including all structures and fences thereon, in its present condition and "as is", and "where is".
- C. **PRE-CLOSING TITLE SEARCH.** In the event that Buyers or Buyers' financial institution seek to obtain what is commonly referred to as a "last minute search" to prove that merchantable title to the Real Estate remains in Seller for the period of time following the last abstract continuation for the Real Estate and Closing, the same shall be the responsibility of the Buyers who shall obtain the same and pay the costs of any expenses associated with the same.
- D. **GROUNDWATER HAZARDS/NO SEPTIC TANKS.** Seller represents and warrants to Buyers that the Property is not served by a private sewage disposal system and there are no known private sewage disposal systems on the property. At or before the time of closing, Seller shall provide Buyers with a properly executed Groundwater Hazard Statement showing no wells, solid waste disposal sites, hazardous waste or underground storage tanks or private sewage disposal systems (commonly referred to as septic tanks) on and/or required on the premises or shall see to the inclusion of language regarding the same on the face of the transfer document by which title is conveyed to Buyers.
- E. **LEAD BASED PAINT.** If applicable, see the attached pamphlet entitled "Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home."

- F. TENANCY. If the Real Estate is occupied by a tenant and such occupancy was disclosed at the time of the auction pursuant to which the Real Estate was sold or in any written materials marketing the sale of the Real Estate or public records, then the transfer of the Real Estate to Buyers at Closing shall be subject to such tenancy. At Closing, Seller shall transfer any security deposit held by Seller with respect to any such tenancy to Buyers. Rent related to the tenancy shall be prorated to the date of Closing.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Buyer  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Buyer  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

ESTATE OF STANLEY C. HIGDON, SELLER

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Chad M. Higdon, Executor  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

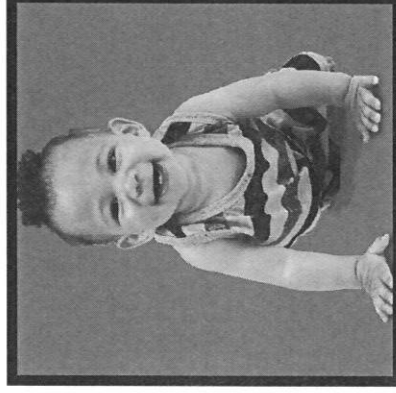
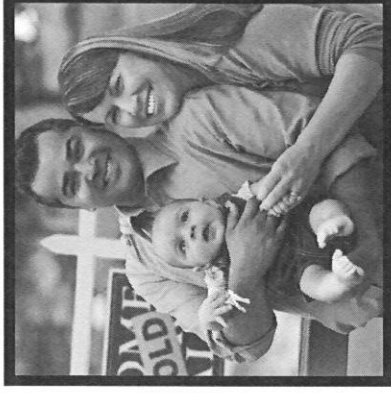
## EXHIBIT A

205 S. 8 <sup>th</sup> Street	The S 35' of Lot 21 in Barret's Subdivision of Outlot 948 in the Original City of Burlington, DM Co., IA
2004 Division Street	Lots Nos. 246 & 247 in Leebrick's Second Add. to the City of Burlington, DM Co., IA
716 Louisa Street	Lot No. 24, in Runyan's Add. to the City of Burlington, DM Co., IA
527 Leffler Street, West Burlington	Lot Number 176, also the W 20' of Leffler St., (vacated) abutting said Lot Number 176; all in Longmeadow Add. to the City of West Burlington, Des Moines Co., IA
1511 Agency Street	Lot Number 27 in Robert and Edward Cameron's Addition to the City of Burlington, Iowa
524 Leffler Street, West Burlington	All of Lot Number 143 and the S1/2 of Lot Number 142, in Longmeadow Addition to the Town (now City) of West Burlington, Des Moines County, State of Iowa
1710 Mt. Pleasant Street	Parts of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of 31-70-2, City of Burlington, DM Co., Iowa.
825 Oak Street	Pts of Lots 88 & 91 in Northern Add. to the City of Burlington, DM Co., IA
214 S. Woodlawn Avenue	Lot 42 & S 47' of Lot 43, except the East 45' of the S 60' of said lots, all in Smith's Add. to the City of Burlington, DM, Co., IA

## 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).



# Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home



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?

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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).



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## 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)

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## 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 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)

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U. S. EPA Washington DC 20460  
U. S. CPSC Bethesda MD 20814  
U. S. HUD Washington DC 20410

EPA-747-K-12-001  
March 2021



## 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

## 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](http://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.

## 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**.

## 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.

## 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:

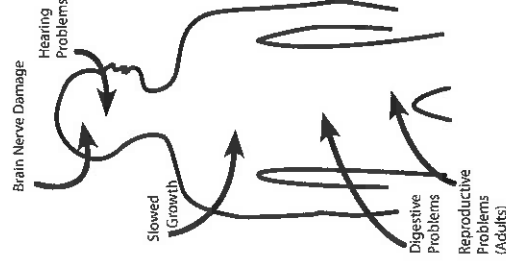
- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention-deficit disorder, and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language, and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage

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

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**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.**

## Other Sources of Lead

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### 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](http://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.

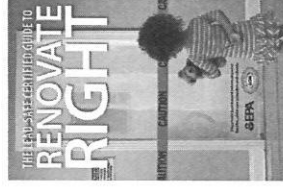
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\* Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

## 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](http://epa.gov/getleadSAFE), or read *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*.

## 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](http://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.

## 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](http://epa.gov/lead), or call 1-800-424-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.

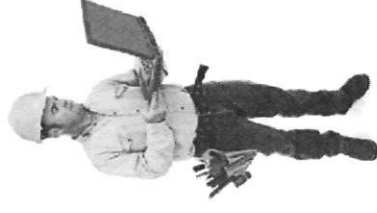
Certified contractors will employ qualified workers and follow strict safety rules as set by their state or by the federal government.



## 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

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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>

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<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

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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.