



Lead Dust Sampling: Another Service You Can Provide

A professional that has been trained and certified as a Lead Dust Sampling Technician can perform a lead dust evaluation at the same time they perform other services. Many homes built before 1978 are good candidates for both lead dust sampling and energy audits.

Lead dust sampling in homes or buildings built before 1978 helps determine if there is lead dust in the home from friction or impact surfaces (windows, doors, floors, stairs) or from people coming into the house.

Why test for lead?

Housing built before 1978 may contain lead paint. Most children who suffer lead poisoning in Maine are poisoned by lead dust. They are exposed to lead dust in their homes when lead paint is disturbed by renovation, when it deteriorates or is rubbed off by opening and closing windows and doors, or through normal wear and tear on painted floors and stairs.

Lead dust can be invisible. Lead dust sampling can even show if there is lead dust in a home that appears to be clean.

How Do I Get Certified?

First, take the Lead Dust Sampling Technician course offered by an accredited training provider. Find a training calendar and trainer contact information at www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/lead

Then, download a Lead Professional application from the same website. Submit the application and fee for the annual certification.

Lead Dust Sampling Technicians are listed on the Maine DEP website as a service to consumers looking for professional testing.

What does the Lead Dust Sampling Technician Training cover?

The Lead Dust Sampling Technician training is a 1-day course. Students learn how to take dust wipe samples to detect lead dust. It includes:

- information on lead and its health effects;
- how to do a visual assessment;
- how and why to take a lead dust sample;
- sampling requirements for lead dust assessment and clearance following renovation;
- lead dust hazard standards, and report preparation.
- OSHA lead in construction standard;
- personal protective equipment and hygiene practices; and
- State and federal regulations that apply to lead dust sampling.

This course meets the training requirements of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Renovation, Repair and Painting rule to be certified to take lead dust samples.

For a limited time: the Maine DEP is offering free Lead Dust Sampling Technician courses on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Maine Labor Group on Health at 622-7823 for dates and locations.

For more information:
Maine DEP (207) 287-7688 • TTY: (800) 492-0859
www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/lead