



## Lead Safe Housing Rule Definitions

Additional information can be found in [24 CFR Part 35](#) and the [HUD Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing](#).

### **Abatement**

Any set of measures designed to permanently (at least 20 years) eliminate lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards. Abatement includes:

1. The removal of lead-based paint and dust-lead hazards, the permanent enclosure or encapsulation of lead-based paint, the replacement of components or fixtures painted with lead-based paint, and the removal or permanent covering of soil-lead hazards
2. All preparation, cleanup, disposal, and post abatement clearance testing activities associated with such measures.

### **Applicable Surfaces**

Applicable surfaces include deteriorated, impact, friction, chewable surfaces, and surfaces to be disturbed.

### **Clearance Examination**

An activity conducted following lead-based paint hazard reduction activities to determine that the hazard reduction activities are complete and that no soil-lead hazards or settled dust-lead hazards, as defined in this part, exist in the dwelling unit or worksite. The clearance process includes a visual assessment and collection and analysis of environmental (dust) samples.

### **Designated Party**

A federal agency, grantee, subrecipient, participating jurisdiction (PJ), housing agency, Indian tribe, tribally designated housing entity (TDHE), sponsor, or property owner responsible for complying with applicable requirements.

### **Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL)**

A confirmed concentration of lead in whole blood of a child <6 years, equal to or greater than the concentration in the most recent guidance published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on recommending that an environmental intervention be conducted. As of May 2019, a blood lead level of 5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ ) or higher, is considered an EBLL.

### **Evaluation**

The principal lead hazard evaluation methods are risk assessment or lead hazard screen, risk assessment combined with lead-based paint inspection, and lead-based paint inspection combined with visual assessment. Alternatives to evaluation include visual assessment and the presumption that lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards are present.

**Environmental Investigation**

The process of determining the source of lead exposure for a child under age 6 with an elevated blood lead level, consisting of a risk assessment with the administration of a questionnaire, comprehensive environmental sampling, case management, and other measures, in accordance with chapter 16 of the HUD Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing.

**Index Unit**

A housing unit where a child with an elevated blood lead level resides.

**Interim Controls**

A set of measures designed to reduce temporarily human exposure or likely exposure to lead-based paint hazards. Interim controls include, but are not limited to, repairs, painting, temporary containment, specialized cleaning, clearance, ongoing lead-based paint maintenance activities, and the establishment and operation of management and resident education programs.

**Lead-Based Paint (LBP)**

Paint or other surface coatings that contain lead equal to or exceeding 1.0 milligram per square centimeter or 0.5 percent by weight or 5,000 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

**LBP Hazard**

Any condition that causes exposure to lead from dust-lead hazards, soil-lead hazards, or lead-based paint that is deteriorated or present in chewable surfaces, friction surfaces, or impact surfaces, and that would result in adverse human health effects.

**LBP Inspection**

A surface-by-surface investigation to determine the presence of lead-based paint and the provision of a report explaining the results of the investigation.

**Lead Hazard Screen**

A limited risk assessment activity that involves paint testing, dust sampling, soil sampling, and analysis. For properties in good condition, a lead hazard screen risk assessment can be used to determine whether a full risk assessment is necessary.

**Lead-Safe Work Practices**

Work practices used when performing any maintenance, hazard reduction, or renovation work that disturbs paint that may be lead-based paint above the de minimis. These include prohibited methods of paint removal, occupant protection, worksite preparation, and specialized cleaning.

**Other Covered Units**

Federally-assisted housing units in the property where a child under 6 years old lives or is expected to live.

**Paint Stabilization**

Repairing any physical defect in the substrate of a painted surface that is causing paint deterioration, removing loose paint and other material from the surface to be treated, and applying a new protective coating or paint.

**Presumption**

An alternative to evaluation that allows property owners to assume without testing that all painted surfaces are coated with lead-based paint and that all bare soil is hazardous, so long as they treat all surfaces to be disturbed as if they contain lead.

**Repair**

Work done on disturbed LBP that includes surface preparation and applying a new coat of paint.

**Risk Assessment**

1. An on-site investigation to determine the existence, nature, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards; and
2. The provision of a report by the individual or firm conducting the risk assessment explaining the results of the investigation and options for reducing lead-based paint hazards.

**Substrate**

The material directly beneath the painted surface out of which the components are constructed, including wood, drywall, plaster, concrete, brick or metal.

**Target Housing**

Any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities or any zero-bedroom dwelling (unless any child who is less than 6 years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing).

**Visual Assessment**

Visual assessment means looking for, as applicable:

1. Deteriorated paint;
2. Visible surface dust, debris, and residue as part of a risk assessment or clearance examination; or
3. The completion or failure of a hazard reduction measure.

Note that a visual assessment alone is not considered an evaluation.