



# Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Planning. Guidance. Protection.



## Voluntary Environmental Checklist for Early Care and Education Facilities

Children are more vulnerable to harmful chemicals than adults and some exposures can have lifelong effects. Completing this checklist will help you identify potential sources of harmful chemicals at or near your facility.

### When was the building constructed?

- After 1978 – Good! This was the year when lead and asbestos were banned in building materials.
- Before 1978 – Caution! There may be lead-based paint or asbestos in building materials.
- ✓ Have a certified lead professional test your facility. Find one at [USEPA’s locator of certified inspection, risk assessment, and abatement firms](https://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/pub/index.cfm?do=main.firmSearchAbatement) (<https://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/pub/index.cfm?do=main.firmSearchAbatement>)
- ✓ Have your facility inspected by an accredited asbestos professional. Find one at [Cal/OSHA’s Asbestos Registrants’ Database](https://www.dir.ca.gov/Databases/doshacru/acruList.asp) (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/Databases/doshacru/acruList.asp>)
- ✓ Learn what you can do to prevent childhood lead poisoning at your child care. Read [these tips from the California Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch](http://cdph.ca.gov/lead) (<http://cdph.ca.gov/lead>)

### Has the property ever been used by a business that used harmful chemicals? Check all that apply:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaner       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair or nail salon  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto repair/paint | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy or print shop  | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas station       | <input type="checkbox"/> Factory             | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill/dump  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral home      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting range      | <input type="checkbox"/> Superfund Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underground tanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling/junk yard | <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfield     |

- No – Good!
- Not sure – Caution! The former property owner, your city, county, or fire marshal can help you get historical records.
- Yes – Caution! Get more details from historical records (see above) and consider hiring an environmental consultant to help you find out if there may be harmful chemicals on your site.

### Where does the drinking water come from?

- Public drinking water supply – Good! Your water has been tested. Get a copy of the consumer confidence report from your water supplier to find out about your water quality.
- Private well – Caution! Private wells can be contaminated from outside sources. Learn how to test and address water quality issues in private wells at the [California Water Boards’ information for private well owners](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/well_owners.html) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/well\\_owners.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/well_owners.html))

**Are there nearby businesses that currently use harmful chemicals?** Chemicals can move onto the property in air, water, or soil. Check all that apply:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaner       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair or nail salon  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auto repair/paint | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy or print shop  | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas station       | <input type="checkbox"/> Factory             | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill/dump  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral home      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting range      | <input type="checkbox"/> Superfund Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underground tanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling/junk yard | <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfield     |

- No – Good!
- Not sure – Caution! Walk around your facility to see what businesses are nearby.
- Yes – Caution! Find out if your facility shares an AC system, storage areas, outside space, attic or basement with the business. If so, contact your county’s environmental health department or contact us.

**Has the facility ever been tested for radon?** Radon is a naturally occurring gas and the second-leading cause of lung-cancer in the U.S.

- Yes, with results below 4.0 pCi/L – Good! You should test every two to five years as Radon levels can change over time.
- No or not sure – Caution! Contact the California Department of Public Health Indoor Radon Program at **1-800-745-7236** to get a **FREE RADON TEST KIT** for child care facilities.
- Yes and high levels of radon were found – Caution! Get help with follow-up tests and, if needed, information on mitigation systems. Call the California Department of Public Health Indoor Radon Program at 1-800-745-7236 for guidance and a list of qualified radon professionals.

**Is the facility in an area of naturally occurring asbestos?**

- No – Good!
- No or not sure – Caution! To find out if naturally occurring asbestos has been found nearby go to this [map of areas in California where naturally occurring asbestos has been found \(https://www.cdph.ca.gov/noa-map\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/noa-map)
- Yes – Caution! To find out more, contact the California Air Resources Board at (800) 242- 4450. You can also contact your local air resources board. Find your nearest office at [California's 35 local Air Pollution Control Districts \(https://www.arb.ca.gov/capcoa/roster.html\)](https://www.arb.ca.gov/capcoa/roster.html)

The Site Assessment Section of the California Department of Public Health developed this checklist in collaboration with the California Department of Social Services and the Early Learning and Care Division of the California Department of Education. If you have questions or concerns after filling out the form and contacting the suggested resources, please contact us at:

Phone: (510) 620-3620 ♦ Email: [csp@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:csp@cdph.ca.gov) ♦ Website: <https://cdph.ca.gov/csp>