

LEAD FREE



Municipal Lead Law Update 2022



Recently, New Jersey has taken steps to remove or reduce harmful lead exposures. Many of these measures rely on attention and action by administrators at the municipal level.

THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD EXPOSURE.

Children who are lead poisoned are seven times more likely to drop out of school and six times more likely to enter the criminal justice system as some may suffer from learning disabilities, violent, aggressive behavior issues, speech delays, hearing issues, and memory problems.

These impairments continue into adulthood where symptoms include a nearly 50% increased rate of early mortality along with cardiovascular disease, hypertension, depression, and reproductive problems.



Basic Lead Information

Lead is found in paint, dust, soil, air, food, and water. Children under the age of six and pregnant women are considered to be at the highest risk for exposure. Lead that passes the placental barrier can affect fetal development and present lifelong complications. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

estimates infants lead risk may be primarily through formula fed drinking water exposure. Otherwise, small children are at risk when doors and windows with lead paint release chips or dust onto the floor or into the air.

Top 10 Large Municipalities Ranked by Highest Percentage of Children Less than 6 Years of Age with Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBLL) in SFY 2019

Municipality (county)	% Children <6 Years with an EBLL
East Orange (Essex)	6.6
Trenton (Mercer)	5.9
Atlantic City (Atlantic)	5.9
Irvington (Essex)	5.9
West Orange (Essex)	4.3
Newark (Essex)	3.9
Paterson (Passaic)	3.8
Edison (Middlesex)	3.3
Plainfield (Union)	3.2
Monroe (Middlesex)	3.2



Though lead paint was banned in 1978, many older homes may still have this hazardous material. Another source for lead exposure across New Jersey may be from drinking water in homes and schools. Typically, there is no lead in the source water that is provided from the state's reservoirs, aquifers, and rivers. Rather, lead is introduced into older homes through lead service lines (LSLs).

In the FY23 budget, New Jersey allocated \$170 million dollars for lead paint remediation.

Lead Service Lines

In 2021, New Jersey enacted statute P.L. 2021, c.183 that established local water utilities must develop a service line inventory and prepare a plan to **replace all LSLs within 10 years.**

The first set of lead service line inventory, progress reports, and replacement plans were due in July 2022.

The law also requires periodic notification to customers—the first deadline for that notification is September 2022. All require annual updates.

Separately, the Environmental Protection Agency's lead and copper rule by **October 16, 2024** (section §141.84) requires water utilities to submit a lead service line inventory (including the portions owned by the water utility and the water customer) or to prove that no LSLs exist.

More information on LSL Replacement Law:



Lead-Safe Certifications

Also in 2021, New Jersey put statute P.L.2021, c.182 into law to addressing lead-based paint hazards in residential rental property establishing:

- **An obligation on municipalities to perform or hire (or permit a landlord to hire) a certified lead evaluation contractor to perform inspections of certain single-family, two-family, and multiple rental dwellings for lead-based paint hazards.**
- **A requirement that municipalities keep track of all rental dwellings, their inspection schedule, whether a lead-based paint hazard has been found, tenant turnover, and that they maintain a copy of the lead-safe certificates with property records.**

Municipalities may perform supplemental inspections in some dwellings to confirm that such inspections are being conducted in accordance with the legal requirements and issue penalties to enforce a property owner's failure to comply with the requirements of P.L.2021, c.182.

If a municipality determines that a property owner has failed to comply with the requirements of this law, the property owner must be given 30 days from the date of the determination to cure any violation by ordering the necessary inspection or by initiating remediation.

If the municipality has not cured the violation within 30 days, they shall be subject to a penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per week until the necessary action has been taken.



Remediation Assistance

NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provides financial assistance grants or loans to eligible owners and occupants.

Find out more online at NJ.gov/dca/



Lead-Free New Jersey is committed to educating and empowering residents and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive suite of solutions for the remediation of lead in paint, water, and soil from homes, schools and childcare centers. **Join us to GET THE LEAD OUT.**

