

Step 4: (Continued)

- Fold the wipe again with the sample side folded in, and place the folded wipe into the sample tube.
- Cap the container. Discard the gloves into a trash bag.
- Label the centrifuge tube and record the dimensions of the sampling area.

Step 5: Measure the sample area

- Measure width and length (unless template was used).
 - Length of sill or trough between edges of tape
 - Width of sill or trough, measure at tape
- Measure to 1/8 inch.
- Do not remove tape until after measurements are taken.

Step 6: Record sample area dimensions on forms

- Calculate the sample area and record on sample collection form and laboratory chain-of-custody form.

Step 7: Clean up

- Clean template with a clean wipe; place in a plastic bag for storage.
- Remove materials from site:
 - Gloves, tape from floors and windows, and used shoe covers.
 - Put items in trash bag, NOT in client's containers.
- Clean face and hands with warm, soapy water.
 - Use sanitary wipes if no access to warm, soapy water
- Send the samples to a laboratory recognized by the National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP) as being proficient in lead in dust analysis. For information on locating EPA-accredited labs, visit www.epa.gov/lead/nllap.

Evaluate the Results

- Compare the laboratory results to the EPA dust-lead action levels for lead dust provided below:
 - Floors: < 5 µg/ft²
 - Interior window sills: < 40 µg/ft²
 - Window troughs: < 100 µg/ft²

These standards are for single-surface samples. The standards for composite samples will be different depending on how many subsamples are collected. Before collecting composite samples, check with your laboratory. Note that HUD discourages composite sampling when clearing federally-assisted housing.

Write the Report

- Use the standard report format.
- Sign the report.

Other Useful Resources

National Lead Information Center

- Clearinghouse of information—from outreach brochures to technical reports—on lead-based paint in the home.
- 1-800-424-LEAD [5323]
- www.epa.gov/lead/forms/nlic

National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program

- For information on locating EPA-accredited labs
- www.epa.gov/lead/nllap

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

- For information on EPA lead-based paint regulations.
- www.epa.gov/lead
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (7404T)
Washington, DC 20460

Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control

- For information on the HUD lead-based paint regulations and technical assistance in complying with the HUD regulations for HUD-funded work.
- www.hud.gov/lead

United States
Environmental
Protection Agency

Office of
Pollution Prevention
and Toxics

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Lead Dust Sampling Technician Field Guide



What Is the Field Guide?

The *Lead Dust Sampling Technician Field Guide* should be used by lead dust sampling technicians to help determine if a recently renovated area has been cleaned sufficiently. The guide provides protocols for conducting post-renovation dust-lead testing under EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule covering housing and child-occupied facilities built before 1978, and clearance examinations under HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule (LSHR) in federally-assisted housing built before 1978. This guide also provides federal standards for maximum allowable contamination levels of residual lead dust.

How To Use This Guide

Take this guide with you on site when you perform post-work dust-lead testing and visual inspections. It serves as a quick reminder of:

- When and where to take dust-lead samples
- The step-by-step instructions for taking a dust wipe sample
- EPA/HUD standards for lead dust.

When To Perform Dust-Lead Tests

Renovation activities that disturb lead-based paint can create lead dust so proper cleanup after these jobs is critical. The purpose of post-work dust-lead testing is to determine if the area is safe for re-occupancy.

Post-work dust-lead testing is performed:

- After renovation, repair, painting, and cleaning activities are finished in property built before 1978 and where children are assumed to spend time
- After hazard reduction or maintenance activities in most federally-assisted properties built before 1978 that are covered by HUD's LSHR

Lead dust sampling technicians should NEVER perform post-abatement dust-lead testing (abatement—as opposed to renovation, repair and painting— is a term used for addressing lead hazards). When performing dust-lead testing, the lead dust sampling technician is required to bring a copy of his or her certificate of training to the worksite.

Where To Collect Samples for Dust-Lead Testing

If there is more than one room, hallway, or stairwell within the work area, take:

- One window sill sample and one floor sample within each room, hallway, or stairwell (no more than four rooms, hallways, or stairwells need be sampled)
- If the windows were not closed and covered with plastic during the renovation, also take one window trough sample in each room, hallway, or stairwell (no more than four need to be sampled)
- One floor sample adjacent to the work area, but not in an area that has been cleaned

For federally-assisted housing, take these samples if the work area is contained, otherwise clear the whole unit.

If the work area is smaller than a room, hallway, or stairwell, take:

- One window sill sample and one floor sample
- Also one window trough sample if the windows were not closed and covered with plastic during the renovation
- One floor sample adjacent to the work area, but not in an area that has been cleaned

Equipment List

- Disposable lead dust wipes (individually wrapped)
 - Disposable gloves
 - Disposable shoe covers
 - Sample tubes with caps
 - Re-usable templates
 - Masking or painter's tape
 - Ruler
 - Sample collection forms
 - Chain-of-custody forms
 - Markers, trash bags, labels, pens, re-sealable storage bags
 - Calculator
 - Sanitary wipes
- Check with your laboratory for their sampling requirements



Visual Inspections

EPA's RRP Rule and HUD's LSHR requires a visual inspection as a first step in post-work dust-lead testing process:

- Under both HUD and EPA rules, the visual inspection is designed to determine if the area is free of visible dust and debris before dust-lead testing can begin



In addition, under HUD's rule the visual inspection determines whether the unit/work area (interior and exterior) is clear of visible conditions that can result in exposure to lead-based paint hazards:

- Deteriorated paint
- Chips or debris
- Visible dust

Lead Dust Wipe Sampling

Single or composite samples can be taken; however, single-surface sampling is recommended to get results for specific surfaces. Use durable, re-usable 12" x 12" sampling templates, a disposable template or use tape to lay out the sampling area.

Step 1: Put on disposable shoe covers and lay out sample area

- Clean template with a new wipe.
- Tape template to surface.
- If no template, outline with tape.
- Using tape to lay out the sample area, make sure that on floors the tape is laid in a square. On sills and troughs, the tape should be laid perpendicular to the sill.
- DO NOT touch area inside template.

Note: Use of disposable shoe covers between buildings and the removal of shoe covers before entering your vehicle can be helpful in minimizing the inadvertent transfer of settled dust from one location to another.

Step 2: Prepare the sample tubes

- Use clean tubes.
- Label tube with ID number.
- Record ID number on sample collection form and chain-of-custody form.
- Partially unscrew tube cap.
- Place tube near sample area.

Step 3: Put on clean gloves

- Use disposable gloves.
- Use new gloves for each sample.
- DO NOT touch anything besides the wipe after putting on the gloves.

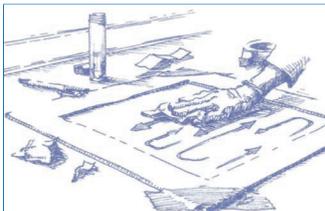
Step 4: Wipe sample area and place wipe in sample tube

- Do not touch other objects.
- Press the wipe down firmly at an upper corner of the sample area.
- Make as many "S"-like motions as needed to wipe the entire sample area, moving from side to side. Do not cross the outer border of the tape or template.
- Fold the wipe in half, keeping the dirty side in, and repeat the wiping procedure in the original direction in a forward and back motion.
- Fold the wipe again and repeat the wiping procedure, concentrating on collecting dust from the edges and corners of the sample area.

Floors



Start at corner and wipe sideways.



Now wipe in the opposite direction.