



HOW TO CHOOSE A SAFE CHILD CARE LOCATION

Identify and Avoid Environmental Hazards

This checklist can help you identify environmental health hazards that could impact children in your care.



LEARN ABOUT THE PROPERTY'S HISTORY

- FIND OUT** if *harmful chemicals* were ever made, used or dumped on the property or nearby.
- LEARN** if chemicals were completely removed or otherwise controlled.
- SEARCH** the *Choose Safe Places Interactive Map* to locate cleanup sites regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection near the location.
- CHECK** if the building has *lead-based paint* which was commonly used until 1978. Lead is a toxic chemical that can cause long-term health effects and behavioral problems in children.

Information on lead removal:

www.epa.gov/lead/lead-renovation-repair-and-painting-program

- LEARN** if the building contains *asbestos*, which was commonly used in building materials before 1980.

Information on asbestos removal:

www.epa.gov/asbestos/protect-your-family-exposures-asbestos

Children may come in contact with harmful chemicals by:

Drinking, eating, touching or breathing in air, soil, dust or water that contains dangerous chemicals.

Chemicals often cannot be seen, smelled or tasted.



CHOOSING A SAFE CHILD CARE LOCATION



CONSIDER NATURALLY OCCURRING RADON

- FIND OUT** if the area has high levels of *radon*.
- TEST** the building for *radon* at least every 5 years.

Radon testing is a requirement for child care facilities in 48 of 67 counties in Florida (Section 404.056, Florida Statutes).

Radon is a gas that forms naturally in soil and rock. It can seep into buildings where it builds up to harmful levels.

1 in 5 homes tested for radon in Florida have elevated radon levels.

Radon gas can't be seen, smelled or tasted.

Radon testing is affordable and easy.



TEST FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER

- TEST** drinking water for *lead* that can leach from plumbing and faucet fixtures.
- TEST** well water annually for chemical contaminants that can occur in groundwater.



LOCATE NEARBY ACTIVITIES

- FIND OUT** if there are any nearby activities or businesses that might produce, use or dump *harmful chemicals** now or in the past. These activities or businesses may include:
 - Auto repair and paint shops
 - Copy and print shops
 - Dry cleaners
 - Factories, manufacturing, industrial businesses
 - Farming and agriculture
 - Fire stations, fire training facilities
 - Former funeral homes
 - Loading docks, large delivery doors
 - Metal plating, welding businesses
 - Nail and hair salons
 - Gas stations
 - Recycling facilities
 - Shooting ranges
 - Wood and paper treatment facilities
 - Landfills, dumps

**These chemicals can move from building to building through the air, water, soil and dust. Businesses that share walls may also share indoor air.*

Scan to visit our website!



Have questions or want to learn more?

877-798-2772

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