

## “LEAD SPEAK” – A BRIEF GLOSSARY

**Lead-Based Paint:** 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.

**Lead-Based Paint Hazards:** 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.

**Visual Assessment:** A visual inspection of interior and exterior surfaces to identify specific conditions that may be lead-based paint hazards. A visual inspection does not identify lead-based paint. The assessment may be performed by a person trained in visual assessment. Training for visual assessment is available on HUD’s website at [www.hud.gov/offices/lead](http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead).

### LEAD HAZARD EVALUATION

**Paint Testing:** Testing of specific surfaces, by XRF (x-ray fluorescence) or lab analysis, to determine the lead content of these surfaces, performed by a certified lead-based paint inspector or certified risk assessor.

**Lead-Based Paint 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. It is performed by a certified paint inspector or risk assessor.

**Risk Assessment:** A comprehensive evaluation for lead-based paint hazards that includes paint testing, dust and soil sampling, and a visual evaluation. The risk assessment report identifies lead hazards and appropriate lead hazard reduction methods. A certified risk assessor must conduct the assessment.

**Lead Hazard Screen:** A limited risk assessment activity that can be performed instead of a risk assessment in units that meet certain criteria (e.g. good condition). The screen must be performed by a certified risk assessor. If the unit fails the lead hazard screen, a full risk assessment must be performed.

**Clearance Examination:** Clearance is performed after hazard reduction, rehabilitation or maintenance activities to determine if a unit is safe for occupancy. It involves a visual assessment, analysis of dust samples, and preparation of report. The certified risk assessor, paint inspector, or lead sampling technician (called a clearance technician in the HUD regulation) performing clearance must be independent from the entity/individual conducting paint stabilization or hazard reduction.

### LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

**Paint Stabilization:** An interim control method that stabilizes painted surfaces and addressed the underlying cause of deterioration. Steps include repairing defective surfaces, removing loose paint and applying new paint.

**Interim Controls:** Set of measures to temporarily control lead-based paint hazards. Interim control methods must be completed by qualified workers using safe work practices. Follow-up monitoring is needed.

**Standard Treatments:** A complete set of interim control methods that when used together temporarily control all potential lead hazards in a unit. Because they address all conditions, a risk assessment or other evaluation is not needed. Standard treatments must be completed by qualified workers using safe work practices. As with interim controls, follow-up monitoring is needed.

**Abatement:** Measures to permanently control (i.e., 20 years or more) lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards. EPA regulations exclude from the definition of abatement “renovation, remodeling, landscaping or other activities, when such activities are not designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards, but instead are designed to repair, restore, or remodel a given structure or dwelling, even though these activities may incidentally result in a reduction or elimination of lead-based paint hazards.” [40 CFR 745.223]

## LEAD POISONING

**Environmental Intervention Blood Lead Level:** The level of lead in blood that requires intervention in a child under age six. This is defined as a blood lead level of 20 µg/dL (micrograms per deciliter) of whole blood or above for a single test, or blood lead levels of 15-19 µg/dL in two tests taken at least three months apart.

## KEY UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

**µg (Microgram):** A microgram is 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of a milligram (or one millionth of a gram). To put this unit into perspective, a penny weighs 2 grams. To get a microgram, you would need to divide the penny into 2 million pieces. A microgram is one of those two million pieces.

**ft<sup>2</sup> (Square foot):** One square foot is equal to an area that has a length of one foot (12 inches) and a width of one foot (12 inches).

**µg/dL:** Micrograms per deciliter used to measure the level of lead in children’s blood to establish whether intervention is needed. A deciliter (1/10<sup>th</sup> of liter) is a little less than half a cup. As noted above, a microgram is the same weight as one penny divided into two million parts.

**µg/gram:** Micrograms per gram of sample, equivalent to parts per million (ppm) by weight. Used to measure lead in soil.

**µg/ft<sup>2</sup>:** Micrograms per square feet is the measurement used to measure levels of lead in dust samples. The clearance report should have the dust sampling results listed in µg/ft<sup>2</sup> (micrograms per square foot).

**mg/cm<sup>2</sup>:** Milligrams per square centimeter. Used to measure lead in paint.

**percent:** Percent by weight, used usually for lead-based paint (1 percent = 10,000 µg/gram)

**ppm:** Parts per million by weight, equivalent to µg/gram (10,000 ppm = 1 percent). Used to measure lead in paint and soil.

## LEAD-BASED PAINT STANDARDS

### Paint – Definition of Lead-Based Paint

Paint or other surface coatings that contain at least:

- 1 milligram per centimeters square (mg/cm<sup>2</sup>) of lead;
- 0.5 percent lead; or 5,000 parts per million lead by dry weight.

\*In 1978 the Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the residential use of lead-based paint that contained greater than or equal to 0.06 percent or 600 ppm of lead.

### Dust – Federal Thresholds for Lead-Contamination (Risk Assessment/Clearance)

- Floors 40 µg/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Interior window sills 250 µg/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Window troughs (Clearance only) 400 µg/ft<sup>2</sup>

### Soil – Federal Thresholds for Bare Soil Contamination

- Play areas used by children under age 6 400 µg/gram
- Other areas, if more than 9ft<sup>2</sup> in total

area of bare soil per property	2000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{gram}$
➤ Abatement required by HUD	5,000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{gram}$