

## Where Can I Get More Information?

Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program  
(800) 282-6063 (860) 509-7740  
[www.ct.gov/dph/safer](http://www.ct.gov/dph/safer)

Daycare Licensing:  
(860) 509-8045  
[www.ct.gov/dph/daycare](http://www.ct.gov/dph/daycare)

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### OTHER RESOURCES:

CT DPH Radon Program:  
[www.ct.gov/dph/radon](http://www.ct.gov/dph/radon)

CTDPH Lead Program  
[www.ct.gov/dph/lead](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lead)

CT DPH Asbestos Program  
[www.ct.gov/dph/asbestos](http://www.ct.gov/dph/asbestos)

CTDPH Drinking Water Program  
[www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells](http://www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells)

CT Department of Environmental Protection  
List of Hazardous Waste Sites  
[www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2715&Q=325018](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2715&Q=325018)



# CHILD DAYCARE Screening Assessment For Environmental Risk SAFER Program

The Connecticut  
Department Of Public Health



## What is the Child Daycare SAFER Program?

### A New Initiative To:

- ⇒ Safely Site New Daycares
- ⇒ Identify and Address Contamination at or Near Daycare Centers
- ⇒ Help Daycares To Be Environmentally Safe & Green

### Did You Know?

#### Children Are More At Risk From Environmental Hazards

- ⇒ Their bodies are still developing.
- ⇒ They play or crawl on the ground.
- ⇒ They have more hand to mouth contact.



## Why is the Child Daycare SAFER Program Important?

### It Protects Children

Daycares on contaminated land or in contaminated buildings could expose children to harmful chemicals.

### It is Proactive

It makes sure new daycare centers are located in places that are safe from hazardous chemicals left by past (or current) operations. This way, we can correct things before they become a health concern.

### It Helps Raise Awareness

Training for daycare inspectors and producing educational materials are helping us better understand and respond to environmental issues in child daycare programs.



## What This Program Means For You:

### Daycare Operator:

- ◆ Be aware: During routine inspections, daycare inspectors are looking for clues about possible chemical contamination at your daycare.
- ◆ New applicants: Please complete a property history questionnaire (for example, was the property a dry cleaning business in the past?).

### Local Planning & Zoning:

- ◆ Ask questions before granting a permit for a new child daycare:
  - ⇒ How was the property used in the past?
  - ⇒ Have environmental studies been done on the property?
  - ⇒ Would the daycare be in the same building as a business that uses chemicals (such as a nail salon)?

### Local Health Department:

- ◆ Provide help as needed to:
  - ⇒ Assist CT DPH during follow up if a problem is discovered at a daycare.
  - ⇒ Assist new daycare applicants completing the property history questionnaire.

### Parent:

- ◆ Know that we are working hard to make sure your child's daycare is safe from environmental contamination problems.

## How Does The SAFER Program Work?

### 1. Finding daycares on known hazardous waste sites

We compare our list of licensed daycares with the CT Department of Environmental Protection's list of hazardous waste sites. If we find a match, we follow up to make sure the daycare is safe.



### 2. Looking for signs of possible contamination

Daycare inspectors look for clues that could signal the presence of chemical contamination at or near the daycare. If something is observed, we follow up to make sure the daycare is safe.

### 3. Asking about how daycare land and buildings were used in the past



New licensure applicants complete a questionnaire about how the daycare buildings and property were used in the past. If the property history suggests a past use that could have left chemicals behind, we follow up to make sure the daycare is safe.

But the SAFER program does **MORE**



The program helps educate day care providers about:

- The use of chemicals in a daycare that can harm children
- Mold/mildew that may trigger asthma attacks among sensitive children
- Green cleaning products
- Other environmental hazards

### Did You Know?

A daycare in New Jersey opened in an old thermometer factory. Children were exposed to mercury. The CT Daycare SAFER program works to prevent such an incident from happening here in CT.



## What if We Need to Follow up?



### Our follow up work may include:

- ⇒ Reviewing site files and documents
- ⇒ Conducting site visits
- ⇒ Making sure environmental samples are collected, if needed

### Our role during follow up:

- ⇒ Coordinating all follow-up work
- ⇒ Keeping everyone informed about follow-up activities
- ⇒ Answering Health Questions
- ⇒ Providing Recommendations to reduce exposure

**Did you know?**  
**Most daycares do not have any environmental contamination problems!**