

Where Can I Get More Information?

Please Contact:

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

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

OTHER RESOURCES:

CT DPH Radon Program:
www.ct.gov/dph/radon

CTDPH Lead Program
www.ct.gov/dph/lead

CT DPH Asbestos Program
www.ct.gov/dph/asbestos

CTDPH Drinking Water Program
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

Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Section
Environmental & Occupational
Health Assessment Program
410 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06134-4355

Phone: 860-509-7740
www.ct.gov/dph/safer



CHILD DAYCARE Screening Assessment For Environmental Risk S.A.F.E.R.

The Connecticut
Department Of Public Health



What is the Child Daycare S.A.F.E.R. Program?

A New Initiative To:

- ⇒ Safely Site New Day Cares
- ⇒ Identify and Address Contamination at or Near Day Care Centers
- ⇒ Help Day Cares 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 correct things before they are 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 of a problem 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.

CONTACT CT DPH IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

How Does The S.A.F.E.R 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 industrial or agricultural use that could have left chemicals behind, we follow up to make sure the daycare is safe.

But the SAFER program is also MORE—



The program helps educate daycare 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!**