Where Can I Get More Information?

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

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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

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

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.

CHILD DAYCARE Screening Assessment For Environmental Risk

SAFER Program

The Connecticut Department Of Public Health

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.
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 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!