

Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids Lead-Based Paint Terminology

This guide contains commonly used lead-based paint terminology that you may see throughout the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program. If, after reviewing the terminology, you have any questions, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) page or contact our team at the following link: <https://cleanwaterforuskids.org/en/carolina/contact/>.

Abatement: This term refers to undertaking any of the following measures to eliminate a lead-based paint hazard:

- Removing lead-based paint from a surface and repainting the surface;
- Removing a component, such as a windowsill, painted with lead-based paint and replacing the component;
- Enclosing a surface painted with lead-based paint with paneling, vinyl siding, or another approved material; or
- Encapsulating a surface painted with lead-based paint with a sealant.

Lead-based paint: Lead is a naturally occurring metal that was previously added to paint for durability and appearance. Paint with high lead content is known as lead-based paint, and it was often used in buildings until it was banned in 1978 from use. Lead-based paint can be present both inside and outside of buildings. Exposure to lead can occur in the form of paint, dust, and/or soil.

Lead-based paint hazard: This term can mean any of the following:

- Any lead-based paint that is on any readily accessible substance or on a chewable surface on which there is evidence of teeth marks or mouthing, or any other deteriorated or otherwise damaged interior or exterior surface;
- Any concentration of lead dust that is equal to or greater than 10 micrograms per square foot ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) on floors, 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ on interior windowsills, or 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ on vinyl miniblinds, bathtubs, kitchen sinks, or lavatories;
- Any lead-based paint on a friction surface that is subject to damage by repeated contact and where the lead dust concentrations on the nearest horizontal surface



underneath the friction surface are equal to or greater than 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ on floors or 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ on interior windowsills; and

- A concentration of lead in bare soil in play areas, gardens, pet sleeping areas, and areas within 3 feet of a facility that measures greater than or equal to 400 parts per million (ppm). Any concentration of lead in bare soil in other locations of the yard equal to or greater than 1,200 ppm.

Lead inspection: This type of inspection is performed by a certified lead inspector to identify and assess the concentration of lead-based paint on each surface in a facility. Lead inspections do not include an evaluation of whether the lead poses a risk to human health.

Lead risk assessment: This type of assessment is performed by a certified lead risk assessor to evaluate any potential lead-based paint hazards, including lead in paint, dust, and soil. The risk assessor determines whether the identified hazards pose a risk to human health and recommends response actions to control the hazards.

Renovation, repair, and painting (RRP): RRP is a certification that ensures lead-safe work practices are used when conducting activities in pre-1978 facilities that could disturb paint.

X-ray fluorescence (XRF): Certified lead professionals use a handheld XRF machine to determine whether paint contains lead without disrupting or damaging the paint.