

# Choose Safe Places: Safe Siting Resources for Child Care Providers



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) **Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education** program offers free resources and assistance to child care providers to help keep children safe from toxic chemicals. You can request help checking for environmental hazards by visiting the program website and filling out a property questionnaire.

#### **Choose Safe Places website:**

<https://www.mass.gov/choose-safe-places-for-early-care-and-education>

*Information about the program, including a link to the property questionnaire.*

#### **Resources for Early Care and Education Programs:**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/resources-for-early-care-and-education-programs>

*Guidance and information to help ensure child care facilities are safe from environmental hazards.*

Choose Safe Places can help child care providers check for hazards before choosing a new location, free of charge.



## **How was the building used in the past? Are there nearby contaminated properties or businesses that use chemicals?**

- **Finding and Removing Lead:** <https://www.mass.gov/finding-and-removing-lead>  
Information from DPH on how to find out if you have lead in your building and how to remove it.
- **Lead Safe Homes:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-your-homes-lead-history>  
DPH database to learn about a property's lead history, including lead inspections, deleading, and letters of compliance.
- **Massachusetts Secretary of State corporation search:** <https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/corpweb/CorpSearch/CorpSearch.aspx>  
You can search current and former corporation names, which may tell you the type of industry. Industries such as gas stations, auto repair shops, dry cleaners, and manufacturing facilities may have used harmful chemicals.
- **Cleanups in My Community:** <https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tool that locates hazardous waste cleanups near a specific address.
- **Search for Waste Site & Reportable Releases:** <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>  
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs data portal allows you to search for state-regulated waste sites and releases of hazardous chemicals at an address or city/town.



## Is the drinking water safe?

- **Drinking Water Guidance for Early Education and Care Facilities Connected to a Public Water System:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-guidance-for-early-education-and-care-facilities-connected-to-a-public-water>  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) guidance to help child care facilities using a public water source test for lead and copper.
- **Drinking Water Guidance for Early Education and Care Facilities with Private Wells in Massachusetts:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-guidance-for-early-education-and-care-facilities-with-private-wells-in>  
MassDEP guidance to help child care facilities using private wells comply with drinking water standards required for EEC licensing.
- **Find a Certified Laboratory for Water Testing:** <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-certified-laboratory-for-water-testing>  
MassDEP information on how to find a certified laboratory for testing your tap water.



## Are there naturally occurring chemicals?

- **Radon:** <https://www.mass.gov/radon>  
DPH information about the risks of radon, how to test for it, and how to fix it.
- **Drinking Water Guidance for Early Education and Care Facilities with Private Wells in Massachusetts:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-guidance-for-early-education-and-care-facilities-with-private-wells-in>  
MassDEP guidance to help child care facilities using private wells comply with drinking water standards recommended for EEC licensing.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES



The Choose Safe Places program is committed to helping child care providers in environmental justice communities find locations that are safe for children, staff, and families.

- **DPH Environmental Justice Tool:** [www.mass.gov/dph/ej-tool](http://www.mass.gov/dph/ej-tool)  
A tool to see if a location is in an environmental justice community, which may be at greater risk for environmental hazards. Choose Safe Places can help you check for possible hazards.

For more information, resources, and assistance to help you choose a safe location for your child care facility:

- Call us at 617-624-5757
- Email us at [ChooseSafePlaces@mass.gov](mailto:ChooseSafePlaces@mass.gov), or
- Visit us online at [www.mass.gov/choose-safe-places-for-early-care-and-education](http://www.mass.gov/choose-safe-places-for-early-care-and-education)

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