Making Your Home Safe for Family-Based Child Care

There's more to safety than child-proofing. Sometimes things in a house can make people sick, especially young children who are still growing and developing. Many can be fixed. Use this document to learn about what to look for in your home before opening a family-based child care center.

KEY

- 🔵 May be present
- 🟢 Avoid introducing

📄 There are regulations and requirements for this contaminant.

💔 This contaminant can cause health effects.

📋 There is an additional action that needs to be taken (i.e., you need to test or have an inspection done).

#		Description	
1	**Lead**	Lead is a toxic metal that is common in paint and in pipes in houses built before 1987.	📄 💔 📋
2	**Asbestos**	Asbestos is a fiber that was used in construction. If damaged, it can cause lung problems when it's breathed for a long time.	💔
3	**Radon**	Radon is a radioactive, colorless, odorless gas. It naturally occurs in the ground and can enter a home.	📄 💔 📋
4	**Unsafe Drinking Water**	Dangerous chemicals and germs can get into drinking water. If your water is from a public water system, ask about lead test kits. If you have a private well, it should be tested for chemicals and germs. The Center for Drinking Water Quality can help.	📄 💔 📋
5	**Carbon Monoxide**	Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that has no color or smell. Install a CO detector.	📄 💔 📋
6	**Smoking or Vaping**	Smoking or vaping in a family-based child care center while children are present is banned. Smoking or vaping inside while children aren't present is strongly discouraged – and parents of all children must be notified. Toxins from cigarettes build up on surfaces and cannot be removed by normal cleaning. They are especially dangerous for children.	📄 💔
7	**Chemicals**	Dangerous chemicals are used in some pest traps or treatments and cleaning products. Choose non-toxic products when possible. Store cleaning and pest products securely and out of children's reach.	📄 💔
8	**Mold**	Mold spores are common. When moisture is present, mold can grow on surfaces in a house and cause health problems. Properly clean visible mold. Fix leaks and ensure proper ventilation to reduce moisture.	💔