



## New Lead in Dust Standards for New York City

Effective June 1, 2021, New York City (NYC) has new lower standards for lead in dust. Local Law 66 of 2019 established new lead reference/action levels and standards relating to lead-based paint hazards.

**The new standards for lead dust clearance and lead dust hazard risk assessment testing are as follows:**

Area	Previous Standards	New Standards
Floors	10 mcg/ft <sup>2</sup>	5 mcg/ft <sup>2</sup>
Windowsills	50 mcg/ft <sup>2</sup>	40 mcg/ft <sup>2</sup>
Window Wells	100 mcg/ft <sup>2</sup>	100 mcg/ft <sup>2</sup>

**The new standards apply to all clearance dust wipe samples collected in NYC on or after June 1, 2021.**

Whenever work is done that disturbs known or presumed lead-based paint, dust wipe clearance testing is required to make sure that appropriate cleanup has been conducted. Dust wipe clearance testing is required whether or not the work is in response to a violation issued by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Department) or the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Clearance testing is required any time there is repair or renovation work that disturbs more than two square feet of paint in a building built before 1960 (presumed to contain lead-based paint) and where a child under age 6 lives.

Lead dust hazard risk assessment testing conducted by Health Department inspectors will also apply the new lower dust standards to identify lead dust hazards.

### As a reminder:

The Health Department requires that:

- All dust wipe testing be conducted in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations.
- Areas that fail clearance testing be recleaned and clearance tested again. A dust wipe clearance test result fails if it is not below the new standards listed above.

Dust clearance testing documentation submitted to the Health Department must include:

- A copy of the original lab analysis report for the clearance test (lab analysis results must be in micrograms per foot squared (“mcg/ ft<sup>2</sup>” or “µg/ft<sup>2</sup>”))
- A chain of custody form that includes:
  - Sample collection date
  - Risk assessor’s or inspector’s name
  - Description of rooms or areas where samples were collected (this should match description used by the Health Department)
  - Measurements of areas tested (must be measured to the nearest 1/8 inch)
  - Description of the surface tested (floor, windowsill, window well)

- A copy of the sampler's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) risk assessor or inspector certificate
- A copy of the firm EPA certificate for the firm that employs the sampler

Failure to submit required documentation may result in rejection of the clearance test results by the Health Department.

**For questions about the new lead in dust standards, email the Health Department's Healthy Homes program at [safework@health.nyc.gov](mailto:safework@health.nyc.gov), referencing "New lead in dust standards." Include your name and phone number with your inquiry.**