



Building a Healthy Boston

Environmental and Occupational Health Division

Learn more at boston.gov/bphc-environment

What we offer:

We work in partnership with a number of City departments and state agencies. We offer inspections, education, technical assistance, permitting support, and other services and resources for residents, business owners, and contractors.

The principles of environmental justice and health equity are at the core of our work, practicing meaningful involvement from community and fair treatment.

We help residents that:

- Have concerns about a health hazard in your home, outdoor space, or public building.
- Want to know more about preventing chemical exposure in your workplace.
- Have concerns about business permits, inspections, and regulation.
 - Including waste or recycling, salons, body art shops, indoor ice rinks, funeral homes, private water wells, marijuana dispensaries, or biological research laboratories

Your Home, Your Business, Your Health:

A Guide to Some Common Hazards in Your Environment

Asbestos:

Common places where you might find asbestos include pipe and boiler insulation, shingles, floor tiles, roofing, and certain adhesives. Asbestos exposure can cause lung cancer and can increase your risk for other health problems.

Bed Bugs:

These insects are commonly found in furniture like mattresses, rugs, luggage, and can also be found on walls, behind picture frames, or near electrical outlets. Bed Bugs can leave itchy, swollen, or red bug bites that will go away.

Carbon Monoxide:

Common sources of carbon monoxide are propane and charcoal grills, fireplaces, gas stoves, gas- or oil-fueled heating furnaces, propane or kerosene space heaters, and car exhaust. If you have any of these in your home, always have a working carbon monoxide detector. Exposure to high levels of this odorless, colorless gas can be fatal.

Flooding Indoors:

Flooding indoors can be caused by storms, plumbing leaks or overflows, or tidal surge. Flood water can bring harmful chemicals, bacteria, viruses, or parasites into your home. Flooding can cause mold growth and damage the building's structure, gas equipment, or electrical system.

Lead:

Lead can be found in many parts of the environment including paint in older homes, plumbing pipes and fixtures, pottery and cookware, toys and jewelry, cosmetics and spices, and in soil and water. Exposure to lead can damage the brain and nervous system, cause learning disabilities and developmental delays, and injure other organs in the body. Babies and young children are at especially high risk.

Mold:

Mold can be found throughout the environment, but grows most where there is moisture from humidity, leaks, or other sources. Common places are basements, bathrooms, kitchens, and around windows. Exposure to mold can cause symptoms ranging from mild allergies to serious health problems.

Pesticides:

At-home substances used to kill pests (insects, rats, rodents, weeds, mold, etc.) should be handled properly. Many pesticides contain chemicals that can be bad for your health. Exposure to pesticides can cause serious health problems.



Visit our website for more information on our team, our services, and resources at: boston.gov/bphc-environment

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
HEALTH
COMMISSION**



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