



County Executive Corner Protect Your Home: Free Lead Testing and up to \$75K Per Unit in Remediation Funding

BY: Ed Day Rockland County Executive

It's heartbreaking to think that in 2026, families in our community are still at risk of being exposed to lead — a dangerous toxin that can harm people of all ages. What's especially troubling is that children are the most vulnerable as even small amounts of exposure can have serious and lifelong effects on their health, development, and learning abilities.

Lead poisoning often occurs when people breathe in or accidentally swallow dust from deteriorating lead-based paint, commonly found in older homes — particularly those built before 1980. This dust can settle on floors, windowsills, and other household surfaces where children play or eat. But lead exposure isn't limited to paint — it can also come from imported toys, spices, cosmetics, medicine, pottery, cookware, or dishes made in other countries.

October 25th through the 31st is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, and this year's theme "Keep Kids Safe from Lead" is easier than ever to do thanks to programs and help available right here from the County of Rockland.

During National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, our Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) is offering free testing of small household items—including kitchenware, ceramic containers, and toys—to help families identify potential lead hazards in their homes. A certified lead risk assessor will also be on-site to answer questions and provide guidance on lead safety at the following Community Testing Events:

October 27, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Finkelstein Memorial Library, 24 Chestnut Street, Spring Valley

October 29, 11:15 AM–1:00 PM and 5:00 PM–6:30 PM

Martin Luther King Multipurpose Center, 110 Bethune Boulevard, Spring Valley

You can additionally schedule a free lead assessment with RCDOH by calling 845-364-3305 or LeadFreeKids@co.rockland.ny.us. The other means of assistance is the Rockland County Office of Community Development (RCOCD), which runs two Lead Remediation Programs. The Leading in Lead Prevention Program which is funded by New York State Homes and Community Renewal, offering up to \$40,000 per unit to landlords with properties in zip code 10977 to remove or remediate dangerous lead paint hazards in rental properties. To qualify for this program, properties must:

- Be built before 1980
- Have two or more rental units
- Have lead hazards identified through the Rockland County Department of Health's Lead Poison Prevention Program (CLPPP)

The Lead Hazard Control Program is funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and offers up to \$75,000 per unit to income qualified owner occupants, and landlords renting to income qualified tenants, to remediate lead based paint hazards. To qualify for this program, properties must:

- Be built before 1978
- Be located in Rockland County
- Have income qualified occupants
- Have lead based paint hazards

This is an incredible opportunity to protect tenants, especially young children, while also helping property owners maintain safe and healthy homes.

The RCOCD works closely with the Rockland County Department of Health to find properties that may qualify, but we encourage landlords who own rental properties built before 1980 to reach out directly to learn more.

If you think your property may be eligible, contact RCOCD_Lead@co.rockland.ny.us.

