



Northeast District Department of Health

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SITUATION UPDATE

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Test Results Received to Date at The Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill

(BROOKLYN) – The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) is reporting on test results received to date on samples collected from residential units at The Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill in Putnam.

Comprehensive lead inspections are conducted in units that house children under the age of six as well as common interior and exterior areas. These inspections include collection of dust wipe* and water samples, XRF testing**, and exterior soil samples.

First unit

- Dust wipe - Samples collected 11/21/22. Results received 12/2/22.
 - **Samples tested positive for the presence of lead in dust.**
- Paint chip and mortar sample collected 11/21/22. Results 11/30/22.
 - **Samples tested positive for toxic levels of lead**
- Water - Samples collected 11/21/22. Results 12/6/22.
 - **Samples were within acceptable limits**
- XRF testing performed 12/20/22. Results 12/23/22.
 - **Five building features tested positive for toxic levels of lead: sections of a brick wall, baseboard, an outer closet door, wood floor filler, and a ceiling beam**

Second unit

- Dust wipe – Results 1/6/23
 - **Results were detected above dust lead hazard standards and clearance levels**
- Water – Results 1/5/23
 - **Results within acceptable limits**
- XRF – **Testing scheduled for this week and next**

Third unit

- Dust wipe – Results 1/6/23
 - **Results were detected above dust lead hazard standards and clearance levels**
- Water – Results 1/5/23
 - **Results within acceptable limits**
- XRF – **Testing scheduled for this week and next**

Soil samples – Results are pending on soil samples that were collected on 1/5/23 from the river embankment area near the parking lot and gazebo area. NDDH will verify today (1/11/23) if there is any other bare soil and will take additional samples, if warranted.

Notes:

***Dust wipe samples** – Positive results do not necessarily mean that lead paint is present in the unit, only that there is lead detected *in the dust*. This is an important distinction because that dust could have come from repair activities, been tracked in from contaminated outdoor soil, or even brought in from lead dust on clothing worn at a job site. Settled lead dust can re-enter the air when the areas are vacuumed or swept, or people walk through it.

- EPA Dust-Lead Hazard Standards – These are standards for lead in dust on floors and windowsills to protect children from the harmful effects of lead exposure. The lead hazard standards help property owners, lead paint professionals, and government agencies identify lead hazards in residential paint, dust and soil.
- EPA Dust-Lead Clearance Levels - Clearance levels are defined as values that indicate the amount of lead in dust on a surface following completion of an abatement activity. EPA's clearance levels are 10 micrograms (μg) of lead in dust per square foot (ft^2) for floor dust and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for windowsill dust, significantly lower than the previous levels of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for floor dust and 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for windowsill dust.

****X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) results** – Any lead reading equal to or greater than 1.0 milligrams of lead per square centimeter ($1.0\text{mg}/\text{cm}^2$) is considered positive for toxic levels of lead.

What is X-ray Fluorescence (XRF)?

- XRF is a method of determining the elemental composition of materials. When it comes to housing and environmental safety, professionals use XRF analyzers specifically to measure the concentration of elemental lead in old paint.
- This method fires x-ray beams at a paint sample to “knock” electrons out of orbit. When this happens, a certain amount of energy is released — this energy is unique to each element. The XRF analyzer detects these individual bursts of energy to calculate how much of each element is present within the sample.
- XRF is the only reliable, non-destructive technique for testing lead-based paint. Because x-rays easily penetrate the surface of paint samples, XRF analysis can detect traces of lead even when buried under multiple layers of paint.
- That means it doesn't require removing samples in order to take measurements, nor does it require marking or damaging the surface (which can potentially release dangerous lead dust).
- With handheld XRF analyzers, each measurement only takes a matter of seconds and allows lead inspectors to quickly and safely test a large number of paint surfaces in a relatively short amount of time.

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