



# Site Investigation

## Jewett White Lead Company Site Port Richmond, Staten Island, New York

Community Update

March 2010

### Lead-Based Paint

The presence of lead-based paint on the inside or outside surfaces of a home can be a significant source of lead exposure to residents, especially children, if the paint is peeling or in poor condition. If lead-based paint is present, property owners can reduce potential lead exposure by:

- Repairing any damaged or peeling paint on the exterior and interior surfaces of the building using safe work practices and trained workers.
- Using safe work practices in buildings that contain lead paint.
- Inspecting properties for peeling and damaged paint and repairing damaged paint safely.
- Fixing leaks and other conditions that may result in damaged paint.

Occupants can protect children from lead poisoning by:

- Reporting peeling or damaged paint inside your home to your landlord and calling 3-1-1 if repairs are not made.
- Regularly cleaning floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- Washing children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Wiping soil off shoes before entering the house.
- Getting all young children tested for lead and asking the doctor about testing older children.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is providing this notice to update you regarding the progress made at the Jewett White Lead Company site.

### Site Investigation

EPA will conduct a cleanup on the former Jewett property, but will not be cleaning the backyards or the surrounding community.

EPA conducted tests using a sort of "fingerprint" identification that would tell us if Jewett was a significant contributing source to the lead levels found in the surrounding community. Based upon our findings, it does not appear that Jewett was a significant contributing source to the lead levels found in the backyards or in the community. What was found on the Jewett site and what was found in the surrounding community are different, indicating that most of the lead comes from other sources, including lead-based paint, past industrial activities, and lead left in the environment from leaded gasoline, which is no longer used.

Despite the fact that our testing does not show a link between the Jewett lead and the backyard lead, EPA remains committed to working with our local and state partners to identify other programs that can help the community reduce exposure to the elevated levels of lead.

### Cleanup Activities

Additional sampling and analysis is planned for Spring 2010 to collect the data necessary to determine the cleanup needed to address lead at the site. It is anticipated that cleanup of the site will begin in late 2010. Precautions will be taken during all on-site activities to ensure the public is protected. EPA will continue to keep the community informed of current and future on-site cleanup activities.

### Simple Steps to Reduce Your Lead Exposure

EPA and the state and city health departments recommend that the following steps be followed to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Have all children between the ages of six months and six years tested regularly for lead.

**Any Questions:**

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Community Involvement Coordinator  
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**For Health Related Questions:**

Chris Duroski  
Public Health Specialist  
New York State Department of Health  
800-458-1158 ext. 27860

New York City Department of Health  
and Mental Hygiene  
Dial 3-1-1 and ask for the Lead  
Poisoning Prevention Program

Visit EPA's Web sites at:  
[www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/removal/  
jewettwhitelead](http://www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/removal/jewettwhitelead)

- Keep children away from all bare soil areas, and cover any bare soil areas that may be on your property. Plant grass seed or place sod on the bare soil. Maintaining any grass already present in your yard will also prevent contact with the soil.
- Adults and children should frequently wash hands and face, especially after they come inside from the yard, and before eating or drinking. If you are a smoker, wash your hands before smoking.
- Remove shoes at the door to prevent tracking in dirt.
- Use a damp mop and cloths to keep floors, children's toys and other surfaces clear of dust.
- Don't let your children play on the lawn right after you have mowed or raked it, because soil could be on the grass clippings or on the material that you raked.
- Add organic matter such as compost, phosphate containing fertilizers, or manure to garden soil. The organic matter binds lead and reduces the amount available to plants. Organic mulch, such as straw, grass clippings, or wood chips can reduce the dust and the "splatter" of soil onto leafy vegetable from rain. Using a phosphate containing fertilizer in the yard will help grass grow and bind lead to the soil.
- Discard the outer lower leaves of leafy crops and peel all root crops.
- Thoroughly wash vegetables before eating to help remove any dirt that may contain lead. Adding a little vinegar to the wash water helps remove lead more effectively.

**Background on Jewett White Lead**

EPA collected soil samples in the Port Richmond Community during the week of June 8 to June 12, 2009 to determine if the lead found in soil at the former Jewett White Lead Company site located at 2000 Richmond Terrace (on the corner of Richmond Terrace and Park Avenue) has affected the surrounding neighborhood.

Elevated levels of lead were found in the community. Lead was found at an average concentration of 549 parts per million (ppm) in the top soil of the backyards sampled. This level of lead is higher than the EPA residential screening level of 400 ppm for lead in residential high use bare soil areas. Based upon soil sampling performed by EPA in an area approximately 1/4 mile to the southwest of the Jewett site, elevated levels of lead may be present elsewhere in the Port Richmond area outside of the properties sampled.