

Questions and Answers from In-Person Lead Rental Registry Info Sessions

Broome County Health Department held four in-person info sessions at Broome County Public Library in August 2026. Here are questions and answers from those sessions.

Q: If a property owner lives in one unit in a property and rents the other unit(s) out, does the owner's unit need to be registered?

A: Yes. All units in the property must be registered. However, if a property owner or their immediate family member lives in a unit, it may be eligible for an exemption from an inspection. Call Broome County Health Department at 607-778-2863 or email us at LRR@broomecountyny.gov to learn more.

Q: When will inspections begin?

A: We hope to begin inspections in Fall 2026. We will contact property owners directly to set up inspections. If you are ready for an inspection and want to get in early, please contact us to let us know. Call us at 607-778-2863 or email us at LRR@broomecountyny.gov.

Q: Do I need to call the City for an inspection?

A: No. The City of Binghamton is not performing these inspections or running the Lead Rental Registry. Broome County Health Department is. We will contact property owners directly to set up inspections. If you are ready for an inspection and want to get in early, please contact us to let us know. Call us at 607-778-2863 or email us at LRR@broomecountyny.gov.

Q: Can tenants sign up for inspections?

A: No, tenants cannot sign up for inspections. We will contact property owners directly to set up inspections. All property owners in the Lead Rental Registry Community of Concern have been notified, so they should be aware of the program. If you are a tenant and your landlord hasn't brought the Lead Rental Registry up to you, you may ask them for updates, if you'd like.

Q: If a tenant has access to a basement or laundry area, does that room need to be inspected as well?

A: Yes. Anywhere that a tenant has the ability to access, we must look at on our inspection. For example, if the washer and dryer for tenants is in the basement, we must inspect the basement. Please be aware that if a tenant can physically access a space, even if they are not allowed to use it, we also must inspect it. For example, if the tenant is not allowed to access the attic, but there is no lock on the attic physically preventing them from going in, we have to inspect the attic. If an area is blocked and a tenant cannot physically access it, we do not need to inspect it. For example, if the tenant is not allowed to access the attic and the attic is locked so they can't access it, we do not need to inspect the attic.

Q: If lead paint has been painted over, will that be a problem on an inspection?

A: On our inspection, we will look for deteriorated paint. If we see deteriorated paint on the exterior or interior of the property, it will be cited. If we do not see deteriorated paint on the interior, we will take dust wipe samples inside the property. Lead is not always paint chips. Sometimes, it forms a fine dust. If our dust samples come back elevated, we will cite those areas of the interior, as well.

So if you have painted over lead paint, it is intact, and the area is clean, it may pass our inspection. If the paint is deteriorating or if we find lead dust, it may fail. Property owners can increase their chances of passing our inspection by getting RRP-certified and fixing any chipping or peeling paint before our inspection. Lead Rental Registry property owners can get RRP-certified for free at Broome County Health Department. We hold a class the last Wednesday of every month. To sign up, call us at 607-778-2863 or email us at LRR@broomecountyny.gov. It will also help to clean before our inspection to remove dust. To clean, do not use a regular household vacuum or dry duster. Instead, use a damp paper towel or cloth to wipe down each surface. It is best to use a new paper towel or cloth for each surface.

Q: What does lead abatement entail?

A: Abatement is work done on a property to permanently get rid of a lead hazard. It includes removing or replacing things that have lead on them. This is different from remediation, which includes less permanent means of discontinuing lead hazards, such as paint film stabilization, encapsulation, or enclosure of areas that contain lead.

Q: If my property has lead hazards, when does work need to be completed by?

A: Property owners must get their Certificate of Lead Safety by December 31, 2028 to comply with Public Health Law 1377. Sometimes, lead repairs can take significantly longer than expected, especially with the cold, wet, and snowy weather we get in Binghamton from late fall through early spring. We encourage property owners to have an inspection and complete repairs as soon as possible so that they can comfortably meet the December 31, 2028 deadline.

Q: Will property owners follow through with registration, inspection, and repairs?

A: Property owners are legally required to follow through with the Lead Rental Registry under Public Health Law 1377. If they fail to comply, they may face enforcement action such as fines or administrative hearings. Failure to comply includes not registering a property, not having an inspection, and not making lead repairs after an inspection.