



What's the Difference Between DIY Lead Screenings and Lead Inspections/Risk Assessments?

Before participating in IU's community lead screening projects, you should understand the scope of our project compared to a professional lead inspection and risk assessment. While both provide valuable information, they serve different purposes and carry different responsibilities.

Key Differences Between IU's Screening Kits and Licensed Inspections

	Community Science Screening	Formal Lead Inspection
Who Performs It	Residents (DIY sampling)	Licensed Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor
Primary Goal	Education and awareness	Hazard identification
What is Tested	Bulk soil and dust	Painted surfaces, dust (with wipes), and soil
Equipment Used	X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) in a lab	X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) of painted surfaces in the home and lab analysis of soil
Legal Impact	Educational and informational; suggests next steps	Suggests next steps but also may require abatement and/or remediation, as well as legal disclosure

Scope of Community Science Lead Screening Kits

Our screening kit is designed to detect lead in soil and bulk dust. It is not a test for lead-based paint. On the other hand, a licensed lead inspector/risk assessor analyzes painted surfaces using an X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) instrument. They are trained to identify specific lead hazards in and around the home.

Risks and Responsibilities

Participating in IU's lead screenings can provide peace of mind or highlight areas of concern. Moreover, the screening may cause stress if our analysis reveals lead in your soil or dust. If that is the case, we recommend taking next steps such as those provided in your report and contacting your local health department, especially if small children live in the home. If you request a formal lead inspection and the lead inspector/risk assessor confirms lead-based paint, you are responsible for following their guidance as well as local and federal disclosure rules. If a lead inspection reveals lead-based paint, you may be required to perform abatement based on the inspector's recommendations.



Why Participate in our Studies?

The benefits of community screenings include education and empowerment. By learning about the presence of lead in your immediate environment, you can implement general safety strategies to protect your family. Because research suggests that no "safe" level of lead exposure exists—particularly for children—knowing your environment is the first step in making informed health decisions.