



# Child Care Property Checklist

## Washington Choose Safe Places

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) believes that choosing the right location for your child care business is essential for success. There is more to consider than cost and classroom size. At some sites, children and staff can come in contact with dangerous chemicals in the environment that can harm their health and wellbeing.

Fill out this checklist to identify and consider the potential environmental concerns of a site before making an investment. Using this checklist to assess potential sites before you commit can protect children, staff, and your business from environmental dangers. This checklist is intended for center-based child care providers only. Family home child care providers do not need to complete this checklist.

### How To Complete The Voluntary Property Checklist

The questions on this checklist cover four areas to consider when choosing a safe location for your childcare center. Please answer all questions as best as you can. If you do not know the answers to any of the questions, contact us at [WCSP@doh.wa.gov](mailto:WCSP@doh.wa.gov) and we can help you find the information you need.

After completing the checklist, please submit a copy to Washington Choose Safe Places staff (see page 3). We will review your responses and determine if there may be environmental health risks at your proposed site. If we find potential dangers in the environment, we will work with you to make your property a safer place for children and staff and recommend low or no cost ways to reduce risk of environmental health issues. If there are no environmental health risks, we will send you a certificate confirming that your property meets WCSP standards.

### Four Things to Check for When Identifying Safe Child Care Locations

#### Former uses of a site that might have left harmful substances



Not all previous uses will present a problem for current or future child care sites. To protect children and your business, it is critical to identify sites with former uses that might lead to contact with harmful substances in the environment.

#### Movement of harmful substances onto the site from other sites



Harmful substances can come from a nearby source, like a gas station or a nail salon, and move onto the child care site through the air, water, or soil.

#### Presence of natural harmful substances



Some harmful substances that are found in nature —like arsenic in soil or groundwater and radon in the air— can be as dangerous as harmful substances that come from human activities.

#### Access to safe drinking water



Clean drinking water is essential for children's health. Drinking water can be unsafe because of chemicals that come from different sources and activities, like old plumbing or use of fertilizers.

# Child Care Property Checklist

## Business Information

Name of child care program \_\_\_\_\_

Child care program site (address): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of license applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **What year was the building constructed?** \_\_\_\_\_ *(To find this information, contact your property owner or county assessor's office.)*

2. **Are you aware of any contamination on the property?**

- |  |                                   |   |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mercury                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead     | <input type="checkbox"/> Arsenic                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radon                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos | <input type="checkbox"/> Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                     |

**Details:**

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3. **To your knowledge, has the property ever been used in the past for any of the following? Check box if yes.**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaner                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill/dump                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gas station                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Factory/manufacturing/industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto repair/auto painting shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral home               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal plating/metalworking       | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting range                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming/agriculture        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood paper treatment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling facility             | <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse/chemical storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nail/hair salon                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Superfund/Brownfields site     | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy/print shop            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                   |   |

**Details:** *(How long ago was it used for this purpose? Was the property remediated or cleaned up?)*

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4. **Have you seen anything at the site that makes you think that chemicals could have been used there in the past? You might see clues like old metal drums, machine parts, piles of junk, a loading dock, underground storage tanks, etc.**

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

**5. Are there nearby businesses (within 200 ft) that currently use chemicals? Check box if yes.**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaner                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill/dump                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Gas station                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Factory/manufacturing/industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto repair/auto painting shop      | <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral home               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal plating/metalworking       | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting range                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming/agriculture        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood paper treatment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling facility                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse/chemical storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nail/hair salon                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Superfund/Brownfields site          | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy/print shop            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities that create dust      | <input type="checkbox"/> Freeways, major roadways, or trains |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above                | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure                            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                      |  |   |

**Details:** (How far away is the business from your location? Is it in the same building? Does it share a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system or common space with your location?)

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**6. Has the building ever been tested for radon?**

- Yes. Date of Testing: \_\_\_\_\_ Results: \_\_\_\_\_ pCi/L
- No
- Not sure

**7. Is the building served by a private well or a public water system?**

- Public drinking water supply. Name of public water system, if known: \_\_\_\_\_
- Private well. Do you use the well for drinking water?     Yes     No
- Not sure

**8. Have you ever had the drinking water tested?**

- Yes. Most recent date of testing: \_\_\_\_\_ What did you test for? \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional: send us a copy of your test results when submitting this checklist.
- No
- Not sure

**9. Where does sewage go?**

- Municipal wastewater
- Septic system. How old is it and when was it last inspected? \_\_\_\_\_
- Not sure

**10. Please share any additional information that may be important:**

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## Next Steps

### We are here to help!

If you have questions or potential health concerns after filling out the form, please contact the Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences at 360-236-3192.

### Submit your completed checklist

Please return this form to the Washington Choose Safe Places program. You can submit this form to us by:

- Email: [WCSP@doh.wa.gov](mailto:WCSP@doh.wa.gov)
- Mail: Washington State Department of Health, PO Box 47825, Olympia WA 98504-7825

We will review your responses and determine if there may be environmental health risks at your proposed site. If we find potential health risks, we will work with you to make the property a safer place for children and staff.

DOH 333-278 December 2021

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).

