

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Project XL: Lead Safe Boston



## WHAT IS PROJECT XL?



Project XL, which stands for “eXcellence and Leadership,” is a national initiative that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost-effective public health and environmental protection. The information and lessons learned from Project XL are being used to assist the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in redesigning its current regulatory and policy-setting approaches through a collaborative process. Project XL encourages local public sector and community organizations to test new ideas that demonstrate community-designed and directed strategies for achieving greater environmental quality consistent with community economic goals. It also requires substantial involvement by stakeholders, i.e. the people and organizations affected by EPA’s decisions. EPA hopes that these projects will provide opportunities for everyone to think “outside the box” of our current system and to find solutions to obstacles that limit environmental performance.

## SUMMARY OF THE LEAD SAFE BOSTON PROJECT

Lead Safe Boston (LSB) is a federally-funded de-leading assistance program that operates under Boston’s Department of Neighborhood Development. LSB collaborates with state agencies and private organizations to prevent lead poisoning of young children by working to control lead hazards in the highest risk areas of the city. Boston has an estimated 153,064 units of housing containing lead-based paint. Approximately 69,500 of those units are occupied by families with young children. In this XL project, LSB seeks to reduce the cost of lead abatements in residential housing, and then use the savings to conduct approximately 12 additional residential lead abatements, potentially reducing lead exposure risks for approximately 30 children in Boston’s Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods. These additional abatements will be done according to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) procedures. LSB also will share the results of this project nationally with any individual or contractor performing lead abatement activities in residential housing units – ultimately protecting thousands of children from lead poisoning. This XL project, EPA’s 47<sup>th</sup>, was signed on October 2, 2000.

## SUPERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

This XL project will reduce the risk of childhood lead poisoning by allowing more lead abatements to occur in residential housing units. Specifically, with funding available from HUD, LSB will be able to perform approximately 12 additional lead abatement projects. This would protect approximately 25 to 30 additional children from lead poisoning. Moreover, on a national level, EPA’s new lead policy, developed as part of this XL project, may ultimately protect thousands of children from lead poisoning.

## FLEXIBILITY

This XL project extends use of provisions in the Resource Conservation and

Recovery Act Hazardous Waste Exclusion (HWE) Rule that allow LSB to forego costly toxicity testing, and to dispose of lead debris from their residential lead abatement projects in municipal solid waste landfills. EPA's new lead policy reinterprets existing HWE regulations so that they apply to contractors performing lead abatement activities in residential houses. These new provisions apply not only to Lead Safe Boston, but to any contractor in the country that removes or abates lead-based paint from private residences.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Lead Safe Boston developed a formal stakeholder outreach process that included hosting public meetings and comment periods at key points throughout the project.

**APPROACHES TO BE TESTED**

Will streamlining lead removal procedures cut costs and reduce the time associated with handling and disposing of lead in residential housing?

**CONTACTS**

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**FOR ELECTRONIC INFORMATION**

More information about Project XL is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>, or via Project XL's Information Line at 202-566-2173.