

Ohio Choose Safe Places

Environmental Resource Guide



Purpose

This guide has been created by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to inform Ohio Choose Safe Places (OCSP) participants and partners about resources which may be useful in making safe decisions about siting their facility. It is recommended that first-time potential operator applicants and operators who are seeking to relocate their facility or to change ownership review these resources to ensure they are able to select a facility location free from known contamination so that their staff and children are protected from environmental health risks.

Children are at higher risk of having health problems from exposure to contaminants in their environment. Their bodies are still developing, making them more susceptible to health risks from hazardous chemical than adults. Also, they tend to breathe faster than adults, putting them at risk from chemical vapors and particles in the air, they are lower to the ground where certain hazards tend to accumulate, and they often put their fingers and objects into their mouth. For more information on health risks associated with specific chemicals and how children may be at risk, visit the ODH [Chemical Factsheets page](#).

For these reasons, it is important that child care center operators carefully consider where they are siting their facilities. For more information on the OCSP program, visit the [ODH Ohio Choose Safe Places page](#).

The resources in this guide come from a variety of sources, including state and federal partners, and the OCSP program does not have the ability nor the authority to update or maintain these resources. Always check each individual resource to see the date of the most recent revisions and updates.

How to Use This Guide

Each resource listed below contains a hyperlink to the resource and a brief description of the resource. Potential applicants and re-applicants should follow each of the links listed below and search for the address at which they are considering siting their child care facility, or (in the case of a change of ownership) for the address at which the facility is located. Each resource may contain more specific instructions on how best to use it. For additional information about each resource, please contact the agency responsible for administering it.

If you find results that you believe may indicate there is a potential environmental hazard at your site, please reach out for more information to:

Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection
Health Assessment Section
(614) 728-9452
BEH@odh.ohio.gov

Or contact the agency responsible for the resource for additional information on interpreting the findings.

Ohio Department of Health

The following resources are maintained by various divisions within the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and can be helpful in finding information about indoor and ambient environmental hazards.

Health Assessment Section

The ODH Health Assessment Section within the Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection is the section responsible for administering the OCSP program. From this webpage, you can find more information on:

- [Chemical factsheets](#), which provide information about specific chemical contaminants that have been found in Ohio.
- [Public health assessments](#), which provides information on what a public health assessment is and provides copies of public health assessments completed for various Ohio sites.
- [Public health consultations](#), which provides information on what a public health consultation is and provides copies of public health consultations completed for various Ohio sites.

These pages do not provide a search feature but do provide helpful information on a variety of hazardous chemicals and contaminated/remediated sites in Ohio.

[Ohio Lead Hazardous Properties Dataset](#)

The Ohio Lead Hazardous Properties dataset contains a searchable list of properties in Ohio whose owners have refused to comply with an order from the Ohio Department of Health or its delegated local board of health to correct known lead hazards.

The landing page also provides links to resources about:

- Lead poisoning prevention in children
- Information for homeowners and renters on lead contamination
- Who should be tested for lead

[Radon Education and Licensing](#)

The ODH Radon Education and Licensing Program provides public radon education, as well as licenses for radon professionals. **This page does not provide a search feature** but does provide helpful information about the health effects of radon and how to test for it.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Resources

The following resources are maintained by various divisions within the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and can be helpful in identifying past and present environmental hazards found at specific locations in Ohio in air, water, and soil.

[Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization \(DERR\) Database](#)

The DERR database is an index of sites throughout Ohio for which the OEPA district offices maintain files. The database is NOT a record of contaminated sites in Ohio. Not all sites in the database are contaminated, and a site's absence from the database does not imply that it is uncontaminated.

[Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization \(DERR\) Archived Databases](#)

OEPA DERR also maintains several archived databases which are **no longer updated and may contain outdated and incorrect information**. These include:

- OLDSWLF (Abandoned dumps/landfills)
- SIABASE (Contaminated pits, ponds, and lagoons)
- TOWNGAS (Coal gas generators)

[Division of Air Pollution Control \(DAPC\) Issued Air Permits Search Tools](#)

OEPA issues air permits for stationary sources of air contaminants. The issued permits specify the limits on the quantity of air contaminants emitted and requirements for construction and operation of regulated air contaminant sources. OEPA DAPC makes electronic copies of the permits available in PDF format as a courtesy to the public.

[Lead Lines Mapping Search](#)

As of June 2016, public water systems are required to identify areas that are known to contain or likely to contain lead service lines (pipes). The search tool provides an alphabetical list of all public water systems that are required to comply with the new requirement. Maps received by Ohio EPA can be accessed through the search tool, and phone numbers are listed for each private water system for questions about the service lines in your business.

[Ohio Department of Commerce](#)

The following resources are maintained by the Bureau of underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) within the Ohio Department of Commerce.

[Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations \(BUSTR\) Resources Page](#)

BUSTR regulates petroleum and hazardous substances stored in underground storage tanks similar to those found at gas stations. However, there are some tank systems that are excluded from BUSTR's jurisdiction, including above ground storage tanks, underground heating oil tanks used for heating on the premises, and underground farm and residential tanks smaller than 1,100 gallons. Their resources page includes:

- Search tool for facilities with underground storage tanks (active and inactive)
- Closure/corrective action information
- Underground storage tank annual reports

[Ohio Tank Tracking & Environmental Regulations \(OTTER\)](#)

OTTER is BUSTR's public inquiry page for information that cannot be found on the BUSTR website.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

The following resources are maintained by the Division of Oil & Gas Resources.

[Oil & Gas Well Database](#)

The Oil & Gas Well Database contains nearly 275,000 Ohio oil and gas well records including completion, permit, and production information.

[Oil & Gas Well Locator](#)

The Ohio Oil & Gas Well Locator is an interactive map that allows users to search for oil and gas wells and related information in the state of Ohio.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The following resources are maintained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The resources below, along with several others, can be accessed from the [U.S. EPA System Data Searches webpage](#).

[Envirofacts Multisystem Search](#)

Envirofacts is a single point of access to select U.S. EPA environmental data from several U.S. EPA databases, and can provide information about environmental activities that may affect air, water, and land across the United States.

[Cleanups in My Community \(Maps and Lists\)](#)

The Cleanups in My Community Map provides an interactive map with layers that can be turned on or off that allows users to search for Brownfields, Superfund sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective activities, and other cleanup activities at or near a specified location. Users can also generate a list rather than a map.

[National Priorities List and Superfund Alternative Approach Sites](#)

This tool allows users to search for sites proposed to, currently on, and deleted from Superfund's National Priorities List (NPL), as well as sites being addressed under the Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA).

[**RADInfo Search**](#)

The Radiation Information Database (RADInfo) contains information about facilities that are regulated by U.S. EPA regulations for radiation and radioactivity.

[**Safe Drinking Water Information System \(SDWIS\) Search**](#)

Information about safe drinking water is stored in SDWIS, the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Information System. SDWIS tracks information on drinking water contamination levels as required by the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act and its 1986 and 1996 amendments. Searching SDWIS allows users to locate their drinking water supplier and view its violations and enforcement history for the last ten years.

[**Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\) Search**](#)

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) tracks the management of over 650 toxic chemicals that pose a threat to human health and the environment. U.S. facilities in certain industry sectors that manufacture, process, or otherwise use these chemicals in amounts above established levels must report how each chemical is managed through recycling, energy recovery, treatment, and releases to the environment. A “release” of a chemical means that it is emitted to the air or water, or placed in some type of land disposal. TRI Search allows access to basic facility information, all forms submitted to EPA since 1987, aggregate chemical release data for all years reported, and relative risk information.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

The following resource is maintained by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

[**National Clandestine Laboratory Register Data**](#)

This search tool provides both a map and a list of addresses of some locations where law enforcement agencies reportedly found chemicals or other items that indicate the presence of illegal drug labs (such as meth labs) or dumpsites. Users can search by state and/or date of incident.

Federal Emergency Management Administration

The following resource is maintained by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

[FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#)

The FEMA Flood Map Service Center is the official public source for flood hazard information produced in support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Use the MSC to find your official flood map, access a range of other flood hazard products, and take advantage of tools for better understanding flood risk.

Local Health Departments

Your local health department staff, particularly in the environmental health programs, may have additional information about hazards or contamination at a specific location in your area.

To find the local health department for your site, use the [ODH Find My Local Health Department Tool](#). Once you have completed your search, you can get contact information for specific programs within the department by clicking “**For the full address click here...**” on the results page.

Local Building & Zoning

Your local building & zoning department staff may have additional data about your site, including information such as historic industrial/commercial land use and maps of flood zones. Zoning is administered at the local level. To find information specific to your facility location, reach out to your local government.

Some building & zoning information for larger Ohio cities can be found at:

- [City of Columbus Building & Zoning](#). The City of Columbus maintains a [zoning map](#).
- [City of Cincinnati Zoning Administration](#). The City of Cincinnati maintains a [zoning map](#).
- [City of Cleveland Zoning and Planning](#). The City of Cleveland maintains a [zoning map](#).

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