



Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

Planning. Guidance. Protection.

Safe Siting Guide

As a part of the Department of Human Services' pre-licensure process, the location you choose for your business will be screened by the Tennessee Department of Health's Choose Safe Places Program for potential environmental hazards.

The purpose of this guide is to help you or your real estate agent avoid potentially unsafe areas or properties. It is important to remember these are guidelines and not restrictions. Thus, if the property has been previously used as or is near one of these business, it does NOT mean that you cannot open your child care center there. This is only meant to help guide your search.

Avoiding everything on this list also does NOT guarantee that there are no harmful environmental exposures on the property. Once you have identified a location, please let your Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) or DHS pre-licensure specialist representative know. Next, partnering agencies will screen the property. You are encouraged to NOT sign a lease or purchase a property until either your CCR&R representative or DHS pre-licensure specialist tells you it is okay to do so.

Once you have found your location, please complete the self-audit survey at redcap.link/choosesafeplaces.

Did not used to be and is not located near:



HAIR SALON/
NAIL SALON



DRY CLEANER



HOBBY SHOP



FARMING/AGRICULTURE



COPY/PRINT SHOP



FACTORY/
INDUSTRIAL FACILITY



AUTO REPAIR SHOP



METAL PLATING SHOP



GAS STATION



GUN/SHOOTING RANGE



FUNERAL HOME



LANDFILL/DUMP



TOWNVILLE SHOPPING PLAZA

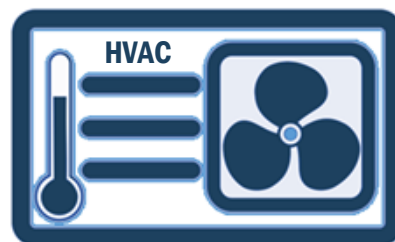


BE WARY OF: Strip malls, shopping plazas, & connected business...

UNLESS: You can confirm your space has a separate heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) system from all other businesses

Did You Know?

Many chemicals used in dry cleaners, hair salons, and nail salons can be harmful for children to breathe in. These businesses are often in strip malls. It is important to have a separate HVAC unit to make sure those chemicals from neighboring businesses don't get into your business's air flow!



Find Out:



Will the drinking water be supplied by a well or spring? If so, it is highly recommended to test the water prior to use and on a regular basis to check for bacteria, viruses, metals, and other pollutants. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/environmental/safe-places/safe-operation/drinking-water.html>.



Was your building built before the 1980s? If so, it may contain lead-based paint and asbestos. For more information, please visit the [Choose Safe Places website](#) or email us at ChooseSafePlaces.TN@tn.gov.



Do you plan to paint or renovate a building that was built before 1978? If you will have children aged 6 or below in this building, federal law requires you to use a lead-safe certified contractor or become certified. This law still applies if the building is your home. You can learn more about EPA's Lead Renovation, Repair, and Paint Rule for Child Care Providers, and find a lead-safe certified contractor or information on how to become certified on EPA's website:

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-renovation-repair-and-painting-program>.

WARNING! Also Check For:



CONSTRUCTION
DEBRIS



CONCRETE
OR
METAL PLATES



DISCARDED
CAR PARTS



METAL
DRUMS



AREAS WHERE
GRASS DOESN'T
GROW



FARM
EQUIPMENT

If you see any of the above, let Choose Safe Places know when you complete your [Self-Audit Survey](#)

If you have any questions, please visit our website: tn.gov/choosesafeplaces (can scan QR code)
or email us at ChooseSafePlaces.TN@tn.gov

