

# The Eight Principles of a Healthy Home

HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes defines [Eight Principles of a Healthy Home](#).

**1 Keep it dry:** Prevent water from entering the home through leaks in roofing systems, prevent rainwater from entering the home due to poor drainage, and check interior plumbing for any leaking.



**2 Keep it clean:** Control the source of dust and contaminants, by creating smooth and cleanable surfaces, reducing clutter, and using effective wet-cleaning methods.



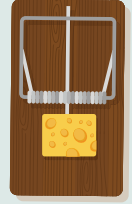
**3 Keep it safe:** Store poisons out of the reach of children and properly label. Secure loose rugs and keep children's play areas free from hard or sharp surfaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and keep fire extinguishers on hand.



**4 Keep it well ventilated:** Ventilate bathrooms and kitchens and use whole-house ventilation for supplying fresh air to reduce the concentration of contaminants in the home.



**5 Keep it pest-free:** All pests look for food, water, and shelter. Seal cracks and openings throughout the home; store food in pest-resistant containers. If needed, use sticky-traps and baits in closed containers, along with least-toxic pesticides such as boric acid powder.



**6 Keep it contaminant-free:** Reduce lead-related hazards in pre-1978 homes by fixing deteriorated paint and keeping floors and window areas clean using a wet-cleaning approach. Test the home for radon, a naturally occurring dangerous gas that enters homes through soil, crawlspaces, and foundation cracks. Install a radon removal system if levels above the EPA action level are detected.



**7 Keep it well maintained:** Inspect, clean, and repair the home routinely. Take care of minor repairs and problems before they become large repairs and problems.



**8 Keep it thermally controlled:** Houses that do not maintain adequate temperatures may place the safety of residents at increased risk from exposure to extreme cold or heat.

