



# ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE® CHECKLIST



The endorsement checklist and payment can also be completed and submitted online:

[www.cehn.org/our-work/eco-healthy-child-care/checklist/](http://www.cehn.org/our-work/eco-healthy-child-care/checklist/)

[www.cehn.org/ehcc](http://www.cehn.org/ehcc)

*Remember to always follow local or state child care licensing regulations.*

## Verify Your Responses (both signatures required)

*The information provided on this endorsement form/checklist is true to the best of my knowledge.*

Facility Owner/Director ..... Date ..... Parent or Non-Employee Witness ..... Date .....  
Individual(s) Who Completed the Protecting Children's Environmental Health E-Course ..... Date Course Was Completed .....

☐ Please record your facility information as you would like it to appear on your endorsement certificate.

Facility Name .....  
Contact Name .....  
Facility Street Address .....  
City ..... Postal Code .....  
Mailing Address (if different) .....  
City ..... Postal Code .....  
Contact E-Mail ..... Facility Website .....  
Facility Phone ..... Provider Cell Phone .....

## ☐ Licensure/Accreditation

# of children cared for by facility on a daily basis ..... Licensed Capacity (# of children that you are licensed to care for) ..... License # .....  
Type of child care facility ☐ Center-Based ☐ Family Child Care  
Our facility is accredited by ☐ AELL ☐ NAFCC ☐ NAEYC ☐ Other (please list) .....

## ☐ Please Select All That Apply:

☐ We are a Head Start Program ☐ We are an Early Head Start Program ☐ Other (National Child Care Chain) .....  
☐ We are a Bright Horizons Facility ☐ We are a New Horizons Academy Facility  
☐ We are a Kids & Company Facility ☐ We are a Nest School Facility

## ☐ How did you hear about the Eco-Healthy Child Care® Endorsement?

☐ Fellow Provider ☐ Facebook/Instagram ☐ Has your program ever been endorsed by Eco-Healthy Child Care®? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
☐ Eco-Healthy E-Course ☐ State QRIS  
☐ CCR&R Agency ☐ Conference/Webinar ☐ Other .....



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**Mail Checklist & Payment To:**

**EHCC/CEHN**

**110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 404  
Washington DC, 20002**

**Please answer all questions on the form below.**

To qualify for the two-year eco-healthy endorsement:

- The child care facility must **comply with at least 30 of 35 items including #2, #8, #17, #18, and #19 which are required.**
- One staff member from the child care facility must **successfully complete the Protecting Children's Environmental Health E-Course**. The course is offered in English and Spanish on the ProSolutions platform and has been approved for adult learning clock hours.

*All EHCC checklist items comply with Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards, online database.*

**YES NO N/A**

☐ ☐ ☐

**1 PESTICIDES-** We use pest prevention practices like eliminating food and water sources and blocking off pest entryways.

☐ ☐ ☐

**2 PESTICIDES-** We notify families and staff 48 hours in advance of any pesticide application. A licensed professional applies the least toxic pesticide product. At a minimum, there is a 12-hour window between the application of pesticides and the time children are in the area (see manufacturer's instructions for further information). **REQUIRED**

☐ ☐ ☐

**3 PESTICIDES-** We wash all produce under running water and purchase produce labeled USDA organic, whenever possible.

☐ ☐ ☐

**4 AIR QUALITY-** We use fans that vent to the outside in the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry area. We fix water leaks and keep relative humidity below 60% (optional: use a hygrometer to monitor indoor humidity).

**YES NO N/A**

☐ ☐ ☐

**5 AIR QUALITY-** We maintain adequate ventilation, especially during cooking, cleaning, and art activities. We ventilate by using screened windows and doors or a mechanical ventilation system.

☐ ☐ ☐

**6 AIR QUALITY-** We post signs for "no-idling" on our entrance doors or near where parking/drop-off occurs to request that families, staff, and delivery personnel refrain from idling their car outside the facility.

☐ ☐ ☐

**7 AIR QUALITY-** We do not use scented or unscented candles, air fresheners, or other products with fragrances in both staff and child-occupied spaces (bathrooms, break rooms, and play and sleeping areas).

☐ ☐ ☐

**8 AIR QUALITY-** We prohibit smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes or "vaping," at all times on the premises and in facility-affiliated vehicles used to transport children. **REQUIRED**

☐ ☐ ☐

**9 AIR QUALITY-** We check the air quality index (AQI), at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov) daily. On Code Orange days, we minimize strenuous outdoor activities or keep children indoors. On days where the air quality index is unhealthy (e.g., red, purple or maroon), we keep children inside.



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YES NO N/A

☐ ☐ ☐ **10** HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS- We use fragrance-free, 3rd party certified cleaning products (Green Seal, UL ECOLOGO®, EPA's Safer Choice). We use fragrance-free laundry products in our facility.

☐ ☐ ☐ **11** HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS- We use fragrance-free, EPA-registered sanitizers and disinfectants only when required, and in accordance with all label instructions. Safer disinfectants can be found at EPA's Design for the Environment Safer Disinfectants Project. We always clean first with a 3rd party certified cleaner before sanitizing and disinfecting.

☐ ☐ ☐ **12** HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS- We use chlorine bleach without added fragrance when EPA-registered safer disinfectants are not available. We always follow the product label instructions to assure proper use.

☐ ☐ ☐ **13** HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS- We use cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting products with pump, pour or spray bottles and avoid aerosol cans. We keep all cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting supplies secure and out of reach of children.

☐ ☐ ☐ **14** HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS- We use facility paints that are alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEs) free, have very low VOC content (<10g/L), and low VOC emissions, AND avoid paints marketed as antimicrobial. We do not paint when children are present and prevent children from using freshly painted rooms for 2 to 3 days.

☐ ☐ ☐ **15** LEAD- We use only cold water for drinking and cooking, especially when making baby formula.

YES NO N/A

☐ ☐ ☐ **16** LEAD- We flush our water at the tap at first use in the morning and/or after more than a few hours of non-use. Contact your local water utility to gather more information on suggested flushing times.

☐ ☐ ☐ **17** LEAD- We test our water for lead and if needed, use water filtration devices that have been certified to remove lead at the point of use. **REQUIRED**

☐ ☐ ☐ **18** LEAD- We maintain our child care facility to minimize lead hazards like chipping, cracking, or peeling paint. **REQUIRED**

☐ ☐ ☐ **19** LEAD- We renovate safely. We use contractors certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for lead safe-work practices, when painting, renovating, or remodeling a child care facility built before 1978. **REQUIRED**

☐ ☐ ☐ **20** LEAD- We do not use metal children's costume jewelry; vinyl toys, teethingers, and nap mats; old, imported, or handmade pottery; imported candies; and antique toys. We stay up to date on current product recalls by visiting the Consumer Product Safety Commission: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

☐ ☐ ☐ **21** LEAD- We use a commercial walk-off mat at the entrance of our child care facility or remove shoes when entering the facility.

☐ ☐ ☐ **22** LEAD- We cover any bare soil in or around our child care facility with mulch or ground cover.

☐ ☐ ☐ **23** MERCURY- We recognize potential mercury hazards such as compact fluorescent bulbs, batteries, and thermometers. We dispose of them properly at a hazardous waste facility and replace them with mercury-free alternatives such as LED lights. Visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) to find disposal locations.



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YES NO N/A

☐ ☐ ☐ **24** FURNITURE AND CARPETS- We ensure furniture, carpet padding, nap mats, crib mattresses, and other foam items are in good condition. Ripped foam items are disposed of. Before buying upholstered furniture, we verify that flame retardants have not been added. Labels on furniture made after January 1, 2015, should indicate whether flame retardants are present.

☐ ☐ ☐ **25** FURNITURE AND CARPETS- When purchasing furniture or renovating, we choose solid wood (new or used) products and avoid pressed or composite wood items. If we must use products with composite wood we choose those with No Added Formaldehyde (NAF) or Ultra-LowEmitting Formaldehyde (ULEF) designations.

☐ ☐ ☐ **26** FURNITURE AND CARPETS- We do not have permanently installed wall-to-wall carpeting where children are present. When renovating we choose safer flooring options such as solid wood or linoleum and avoid wall-to-wall carpets, laminate, and vinyl flooring.

☐ ☐ ☐ **27** FURNITURE AND CARPETS- We choose area rugs that are free of stain repellents and harmful fluorinated chemicals. We vacuum area rugs daily with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum cleaner and clean them at least twice a year (or as needed) using fragrance-free, 3rd party certified cleaners. We keep dust levels down by damp mopping and dusting hard floors and surfaces regularly.

☐ ☐ ☐ **28** ART SUPPLIES- We use only non-toxic, fragrance-free art supplies approved by the Art and Creative Materials Institute (ACMI). Look for ACMI nontoxic seal 'AP' at [www.acmiart.org](http://www.acmiart.org)

YES NO N/A

☐ ☐ ☐ **29** PLASTICS- We look for products (e.g. toys, food containers, dinnerware) labeled PVC-free, phthalate-free, and BPA-free. We avoid soft vinyl plastic, hard clear plastic, and styrofoam products.

☐ ☐ ☐ **30** PLASTICS- We never heat or microwave food or drink in any plastic containers or plastic wrap.

☐ ☐ ☐ **31** PLASTICS- We use glass baby bottles with a silicone sleeve whenever possible. If glass is not an option, then milky, opaque plastic bottles and sippy cups labeled "BPA free" are used.

☐ ☐ ☐ **32** PLAYGROUND SURFACES- We use safer materials in our play areas including organically managed natural grass, mulch, or engineered wood fiber. We do not have artificial turf or crumb rubber (recycled rubber) in our play areas.

☐ ☐ ☐ **33** PLAY AREAS- We have shade structures for outdoor play areas that are not protected from the sun -or- if we don't have shade structures, we limit outdoor activities during hot weather, especially during the middle of the day when the sun is hottest.

☐ ☐ ☐ **34** RADON- We have tested our facility for radon within the last two years. If elevated levels of radon are found, we take action to mitigate the hazards. We have visited [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon) for resources, and have researched state requirements and guidelines to learn more.

☐ ☐ ☐ **35** SAFE SITING- We regularly consider the environment around the location of our child care facility and whether our building is in close proximity to environmental hazards which may impact drinking water or indoor and outdoor air quality. If hazards such as nearby industries (nail salons, gas stations, dry cleaners, etc.) or natural hazards such as smoke from wildfires are present we contact our local or state public health department for advice on avoiding health risks.



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Please allow 4-6 weeks for the processing of your endorsement.

## Quality Control

As part of Eco-Healthy Child Care® quality control, a select number of endorsed sites are randomly chosen for a virtual technical assistance call. By submitting this checklist and payment, you agree to participate in the virtual technical assistance if chosen (no additional charge). [Click](#) to learn more.

## Fees

The 2-year endorsement processing fee:

- Facilities licensed to care for 1-20 children = \$25
- Facilities licensed to care for 21+ children = \$50

## Renewal Discount

Facilities that submit for renewed endorsement before their current one expires will receive a \$10 refund of their endorsement fee once a submitted application is reviewed and processed.

## Eco-Healthy Child Care® Endorsement Program

Upon meeting the criteria outlined in the checklist, including a non-employee witness name and contact information, completing the self-paced Children's Environmental Health Protection e-course (\$30 for a 3-hour session), and submitting the \$25/\$50 endorsement fee, your facility will receive the 2-year Eco-Healthy Child Care® certificate of approval and monthly Eco-Healthy Hot Tip emails.

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