

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD LEAD EXPOSURE?

Keeping the home clean and free of dust, and washing hands can help prevent lead poisoning. Adults can check the home for potential danger areas, looking for flaking paint, crumbling plaster, indoor dust and outdoor dirt that may have lead in it. Any peeling paint should be removed using wet methods and the paint chips removed. Children should not be present when scraping or cleaning up paint chips. Dust should be kept to a minimum by damp mopping and using a wet cloth to clean walls, window sills, and other surfaces. Painted wood should not be burned for heating.

MAKE SURE RENOVATORS AND LEAD ABATEMENT CONTRACTORS USE SAFE LEAD WORK PRACTICES!

More tips for preventing childhood lead poisoning are included in the pamphlet entitled "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home." This pamphlet can be obtained by calling 1-800-424-LEAD.

WHO MAY I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

LA Department of Environmental Quality
OES, Permit Support Services
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

Lead-based Paint Accreditation
(225) 219-3300

OTHER CONTACTS

LA State Licensing Board for Contractors
(225) 765-2301

LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals
(504) 219-4518

OSHA
(225) 298-5458

Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
www.hud.gov (202) 708-0685

National Lead Information Center
1-800-424-LEAD (5323)

CPSC Recalled
Products List Due to
Lead Contamination
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml08/08260.html>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/lead 1-800-887-6063

LEAD AWARENESS



WHAT IS LEAD?

Lead is a soft malleable heavy metal. Lead has a bluish-white color when freshly cut, but tarnishes to a dull grayish color when exposed to air. It has a shiny chrome-silver luster when melted into a liquid.

Lead has a number of properties that makes it useful in building construction, lead-acid batteries, bullets, shot, fishing sinkers, weights, and is part of solder, pewter, fusible alloys, and radiation shields. Like mercury, lead is a potent neurotoxin that accumulates in soft tissues and bone over time. *Lead is poisonous.*



A site inspection being conducted by LDEQ staff, using the Nitron XRF to test for lead content of the paint.

LEADED GASOLINE

Tetraethyl lead was used in leaded fuels to reduce engine knocking. The EPA banned the use of lead gasoline for highway transportation, beginning January 1, 1996.

Soil in many urban areas is contaminated due deposition of lead from automobile exhaust and gasoline spillage.

LEAD-BASED PAINT IN HOMES

Lead was useful as a paint additive, because it made the paint brighter, lasted longer, and inhibited mildew growth. Approximately 75% of all pre-1978 housing contains lead-based paint. The use of lead based paint in residential homes was banned in 1978.

Lead based paint is most commonly found on windows and window sills, doors and door frames, in kitchens, on stairs, railings, banisters, and porches, and on the exterior siding and overhangs of homes.

IMPORTANT HEALTH FACTS

You can breathe in lead from dust or fumes or you can swallow lead if it gets on your hands or face or in your foods, drinks, or tobacco.

Lead can damage your nerves, stomach and intestines, kidneys, reproductive function, and red blood cells.

Children are most susceptible to the damaging effects of lead. Most children who have elevated levels of lead in the blood do not have any symptoms.

Pregnant women are also at greater risk and may pass lead on to their fetuses.

The long-term effects of elevated blood lead levels in children may include slow development, reduced Intelligence Quotient (IQ) scores, learning disabilities, hearing loss, reduced height and hyperactivity.

Lead is stored in the bones and may be released later in life.

SYMPTOMS OF LEAD POISONING

- Dizziness, fatigue, rapid heart rate
- Irritability, restlessness, difficulty sleeping
- Headache, poor memory, depression
- Fatigue, drowsiness
- Abdominal Pains, constipation, diarrhea
- Nausea, vomiting
- Impotence, menstrual disturbances

TREATMENT OF ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS

A case of elevated blood lead indicates an environmental source of lead, often in the home. When the level of blood-lead in children reaches 10 ug/dl, steps should be taken to prevent future exposure by performing lead hazard assessments, performing safe lead practices during and after any lead-paint abatement, using wet methods for dust removal, and re-testing for blood lead levels to ensure the child's safety.

High lead blood levels of (45ug/dl and above) should be removed by chelation treatment. Doctors may decide to use this therapy at lower blood lead levels, depending on the child's age, housing situation, and clinical signs and symptoms

