

What Parents Should Know About Childhood Lead Poisoning

Connecticut Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
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Where is Lead Found?

- Lead is sometimes found in paint that was made before 1978, ceramic dishes, crystal, imported food cans, water pipes, solder and fittings, dirt, some ethnic cosmetics and home remedies.
- Some occupations and hobbies may cause children and adults to be exposed to lead.

How Does Lead Affect The Body?

- Lead gets into the body by swallowing or inhaling lead contaminated dust or materials.
- No amount of lead in the body is safe. Lead causes permanent damage! Lead can damage the brain or nervous system, interfere with growth, cause hearing loss and learning disabilities.
- Many children do not show signs of lead poisoning. If signs are present, they may include vomiting, upset stomach, irritability and restlessness.
- If a woman is pregnant and is exposed to lead, she and her unborn child may become lead poisoned. Lead can cause permanent damage to the mother and her baby.

When Should Your Child Be Tested?

- Have your child tested for lead at 1 year and at 2 years of age.
- If your child is at risk at other ages, your child should be tested at those times as well (*see other side for risk factors*).

Is Your Child At Risk Of Becoming Lead Poisoned?

Your child may be at risk if you answer yes to any of the following questions:

- Does your child live in or regularly visit a house or child care facility built before 1960?
- Does your child live in or regularly visit a house or child care facility built before 1978 that is being or has recently been renovated or remodeled?
- Does your child live in or regularly visit a house or child care facility that has peeling or chipping paint or deteriorating walls?
- Does your child live with an adult or frequently visit an adult whose job or hobby exposes that adult to lead?
- Does your family eat or drink from imported dishes or use home remedies?



How Can You Reduce The Risk?

Replace, repair or manage all lead hazards in a lead safe manner.

Until this can be done...

- Keep children and pregnant women away from all lead hazards.
- Always clean up lead dust and chips by wet wiping or wet mopping.
- Place furniture or other barriers to block areas with peeling or damaged paint. Do not use windows that have deteriorated paint that has been covered with contact paper.
- Cover window sills that have deteriorated paint with contact paper.
- Move your child's bedroom or play area to a room that has no deteriorating paint.
- Place washable doormats inside and outside entry doors and remove shoes before entering the home.
- Don't allow your child (or pet) to play in bare soil areas.
- Wash and dry your child's hands, toys and pacifiers often, especially before playing, eating and bedtime.
- Only use cold water from the tap for drinking, cooking and making formula.
- Let the water run from the tap until it is cold for about 1–2 minutes.
- Have your child eat nutritious meals and snacks. An empty stomach absorbs lead faster than a full stomach.



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