

WHERE DO

Lead Hazards Come From?



PAINT Paint used before 1978 could contain lead. If the paint is chipping, peeling or chalking it may be a problem. Windows, doors, steps and porches are areas where surfaces rub together and make lead dust.



DUST Lead dust is the main cause of lead poisoning. Lead dust mixes with household dust and can gather on surfaces, in carpets and on toys. Home repairs and remodeling can also make lead dust.



SOIL & DIRT Soil and dirt around homes and apartment buildings may contain lead. Children may come into contact with lead by playing in bare dirt. Lead in the soil may enter vegetables planted in the garden.



WATER PIPES & SOLDER Some household plumbing may contain lead solder. Lead may get into the water when water sits in pipes. If this happens, the water you use for drinking, cooking or mixing baby formula can cause lead poisoning.



POTTERY, WORKPLACES & HOBBIES Some imported pottery and ceramic cookware may have lead in the glaze. Lead can also be brought into the home from the workplace (painters, remodelers, radiator repair, etc.) and hobbies (stained glass solder, bullets, fishing sinkers, etc.) that use lead.



DID YOU **KNOW?**

Children can get lead in their bodies by breathing or swallowing dust that contains lead. Even very small amounts can be harmful. Children can be hurt by lead and may not look or act sick. Young children are especially at risk for lead poisoning because lead can slow growth and development. The effects of lead poisoning can be with a child throughout life.

HOW DOES

Lead Poisoning Affect Children?

- ▶ Reading and Learning Problems
- ▶ Brain Damage
- ▶ Lowered Intelligence
- ▶ Behavior Problems
- ▶ Slowed Growth
- ▶ Kidney and Liver Damage

For more information or to order lead poisoning prevention educational materials call the LeadLine **1-800-368-5060** or **503-988-4000** in the Portland metro area.

If you need this publication in a different format, call **503-731-4025** or visit our Web site at www.healthoregon.org/lead

LEAD-SAFE CHILD CARE



A Child Care Provider's **Guide** to Protect Kids

Call the LEADLINE
1.800.368.5060
PORTLAND METRO
503.988.4000

WHAT ARE

My Responsibilities As A Provider?

Lead poisoning is one of the leading environmental diseases affecting young children. As a child care provider, you can take simple steps to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in your care.

This brochure offers ideas on how you can help to keep the children in your care lead-safe and healthy. Child care providers can help protect children from lead poisoning by reducing exposure to lead in the child care environment, and by promoting good nutrition and healthy habits.

Lead poisoning is preventable.



HOW CAN

I Protect The Children In My Care?

- ▶ Find out when your facility or home was built. Have your pre-1978 home or facility professionally tested for lead.
- ▶ Periodically inspect your facility or home for signs of chipping, peeling or deteriorating paint.
- ▶ Clean up paint chips immediately and keep paint in good condition.
- ▶ Clean areas where children play. Regularly wet-wipe floors, window sills and frames, porches and other surfaces to remove lead dust.
- ▶ Wash children's hands often, especially before meals and after playing outside.
- ▶ Wash toys, stuffed animals, bottles and pacifiers often to remove lead dust.
- ▶ Clean or remove shoes before entering the home or center to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- ▶ Have children play on grass instead of bare soil. Provide a sandbox with lead-free sand.
- ▶ Inspect painted playground equipment for peeling or chipping paint.
- ▶ Only use lead-free toys and Art & Creative Materials Institute (ACMI) certified art supplies.
- ▶ Use cold water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. Run the water for 15-30 seconds until it feels noticeably colder.
- ▶ Do not use imported, old or handmade pottery to cook, store or serve food or drinks.
- ▶ Provide regular healthy meals and snacks.
- ▶ Don't allow adults to bring lead dust from hobbies or work places into the child care facility.
- ▶ Use lead-safe work practices or hire a lead-safe professional for maintenance or renovations.
- ▶ Provide information about lead poisoning prevention to parents.