

Sadly, childhood lead poisoning remains the number one environmental disease affecting children in the United States. It is estimated that more than 434,000 U.S. children between the ages of one and five have harmful levels of lead in their bodies.

Lead exposure can cause devastating and irreversible effects.

As of last year, 2,500 Maryland children were poisoned by lead. One of these could be your child.

The good news is that lead poisoning is entirely preventable. You have the power to help protect your children and family from the dangers of lead poisoning.

Resources

Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning

410-534-6447 or 800-370-5323
www.lead-safe.org

Maryland Department of the Environment

For information on Property Compliance, Inspection and Case Management call 410-537-3000 or 800-776-2706
www.mde.state.md.us

Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

For information on Blood Lead Testing call 410-767-6713 or 877-463-3464
www.fha.state.md.us/och

Services Provided by the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning

General Education Services

- Information on certified contractors and inspectors
- Community education and training services
- Information hotline

Family Advocacy Services

- Case management
- Tenant rights education
- Assistance with filing Notices of Defects in Maryland
- Assistance with rental escrow
- Lead Safe Housing Registry
- Lead hazard reduction grants and loans
- Relocation assistance grants
- Rental property owner compliance assistance
- HEPA Vacuum Loan Program

Lead Hazard Reduction Services

- Low-level lead hazard reduction services
- Window replacement
- Emergency lead dust cleaning
- Healthy homes assessment services

Public Policy/Advocacy

- Advocacy for improved policies and resources to increase the availability of safe and affordable housing in Maryland

For more information, please call
410-534-6447 (Baltimore),
800-370-5323 (toll-free)
or log on to www.lead-safe.org.

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Chips Flakes Peels Dust

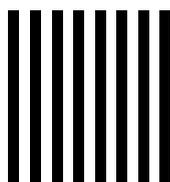
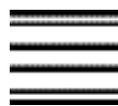
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the smallest things in
your home can be the
biggest danger to your
newborn's health.



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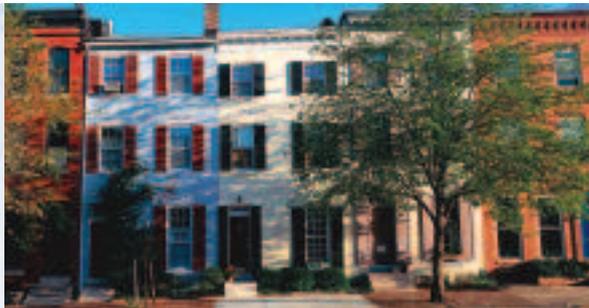
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What is Lead?

Lead is a metal that can be found in sources such as paint used in homes built before 1978, soil, water and old painted furniture and toys. Approximately 38 million homes in the United States still contain lead-based paint. Four million of these are home to one or more young children. The problem is not confined to poor families or caused mainly by children eating paint chips. It is usually the result of swallowing invisible lead dust created by chipping, peeling or flaking paint in older homes and rental units.

Why is Lead so Dangerous?

Lead poisoning causes irreversible physical and mental disabilities and can affect nearly every system in the body. The effects of lead poisoning include:

- Learning disabilities
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Aggressive and violent behavior
- Hearing loss
- Convulsions
- Reduction of motor control/balance
- Mental retardation
- Death

Lead often enters the body when children put their hands or other objects covered with lead dust into their mouths or eat paint chips or soil that contains lead. Lead poisoning may also result from breathing in lead dust created during renovation or home repair.

Who is at Risk for Lead Poisoning?

Children under the age of six are most at risk for lead poisoning. Lead disrupts proper brain development during these years.

Pregnant women, and their unborn children, are also at risk. Elevated blood lead levels in pregnant women can lead to an increased risk of miscarriage, stillbirth or low birth weight babies.

Adults are also at risk of being poisoned with effects ranging from high blood pressure to a higher risk of early death.

Where is Lead Most Often Found in Your Home?

We're surrounded by sources of lead throughout our environment. Small children are most often poisoned by invisible lead dust that is released when paint is peeling, damaged or disturbed. This can often be caused by the opening and closing of windows, doors that rub or old painted surfaces that have been dry sanded. The dust settles on floors and other surfaces, which can easily get on children's hands or toys and into their mouths. Lead can be found in or caused by:

- Peeling, chipping or damaged lead-based paint on windows, doors, stairs, railings and other areas of the home
- Bare soil contaminated with lead
- Hobbies or jobs (contractors, painters, highway work, stained glass or furniture refinishing)
- Drinking water (lead pipes, solder, brass fixtures and valves can all leach lead)

Other sources of Lead Poisoning:

- Imported vinyl mini-blinds
- Candles with leaded wicks
- Old lead-glazed bath tubs
- Imported plastic toys
- Imported crayons
- Folk remedies and/or vitamins (Greta, Arzacon, Pay-loo-ah, Kohl, Kandu)
- Car batteries and paints



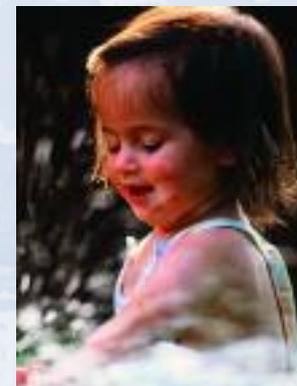
Test Your Child.

Symptoms of lead poisoning are difficult to detect until a child is seriously poisoned. Children should be tested at age one and two and thereafter as recommended by your doctor or healthcare provider. The only way to know if a child is lead poisoned is to do a blood test.

What Can You do to Protect Your Children from Lead Poisoning?

There are many things a parent can do to help keep children safe from lead poisoning:

- Wash your hands before preparing foods.
- Make sure your child's hands, pacifier, bottles and toys are washed often.
- Do not dry scrape old paint. Only wet scrape and immediately wet clean afterwards.
- Do not dry sweep. Use wet or damp cleaning methods for floors and surfaces. Always clean sponges and mop heads after use.
- Use only cold water from the tap for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Hot water from older pipes is more likely to contain higher levels of lead.
- Avoid using materials with lead when doing hobbies or crafts.
- Use vacuums with HEPA filters.
- Don't let children play in bare soil.
- If you rent, notify your landlord of any chipping, peeling or flaking paint.



Help Us Help You.

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning can send you additional information on products and services to help you reduce the risk of your child being lead poisoned. Please check all that apply.

☐ General Lead Poisoning Prevention Information

☐ Lead Safe Work Practices

- Lead safe renovation training/services
- A list of licensed lead paint inspectors
- A list of licensed lead paint contractors
- HEPA Vacuum Loan Program
- Rental property owner compliance assistance

☐ Lead Hazard Reduction Grants and Loans

☐ Housing Services

- Relocation assistance
- Lead Safe Housing Registry

☐ Legal Services

- Rental escrow for tenants
- Legal rights education

I am a:

- ☐ Homeowner
- ☐ Renter

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

