

LEAD

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON THE DANGERS OF LEAD POISONING

Lead is a metal that has been used for centuries because of its low melting point, durability, weight and the colors created when it is combined with other elements, from white to bright yellow and orange. The places where lead containing products are found in the home are paint, plumbing, sporting goods (fishing and hunting), craft products and toys.

In 1978 the EPA banned lead in household paint. In 1986, the Safe Water Drinking Act banned lead solder for use in drinking water systems. Because fixtures were still allowed to contain lead, in 2014, the act was amended and limits lead in all plumbing materials to 0.25 percent. Due to lead paint in older homes, in 1996 EPA established a rule that requires home owners and landlords, that have houses or apartments built before 1978, to disclose to potential buyers or renters any information about lead testing that has been performed. It also allows potential home buyers to test a home before they buy it. Another EPA regulation from 2008 regulates maintenance staff and contractors that perform lead paint renovation, repair and painting in homes where children live, child care facilities and kindergartens built before 1978. They must be trained and certified in safe lead removal practices. This rule became fully enacted in August, 2010.

In 2008, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act limited the total lead allowed in children's toys to 100 parts per million (ppm) and 90 ppm in surface paint.

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

Exposure	Short-Term High Concentration	Long-Term Low Concentration
Children	seizures, convulsions, death	decreased intelligence, hyperactivity, poor coordination, decreased muscle and bone growth, hearing damage, nervous system damage, kidney damage
Adults		fertility problems, birth defects, high blood pressure, nervous disorders, memory problems, muscle and joint pain



PREVENTION

- Practice good personal hygiene and wash hands before eating or drinking, especially after working with or around possible lead containing materials.
- Use cleaning methods that minimize dust release (HEPA vacuuming, mopping, wet wiping, etc.) to reduce dust accumulations.
- Obtain any information from the property owner or landlord concerning lead testing that may have been performed.
- If your home or apartment was built before 1978 make sure all painted surfaces are kept in good condition and repaint, with latex paint, or replace any damaged surfaces (especially areas where objects slide together like windows and doors) to prevent lead containing dust from being created or released. If it is your home, consider having a lead survey performed.
- Assure any maintenance work performed is done in accordance with good lead abatement work practices to prevent the generation or release of lead dust as given on the EPA lead website.
- Check to see if toys, children's jewelry or other objects contain lead by checking lead hazard product recalls on the NYS Department of Health and the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission websites.
- If you use products that contain lead (ammunition, fishing sinkers, antiques, etc.) use practices to contain the lead, like keeping them in an isolated area, remove and separately launder clothing, use good hygiene practices, etc.
- If your house or apartment may contain lead containing piping, solder or fixtures, make sure to run the water for a minute before using it and only get water for drinking from the cold-water line.

For more information and resources visit:

www.cseany.org/safety



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