

LEAD AWARENESS

Before starting that remodeling or renovation project, consider the following:

Was your home built before 1978?

and

Do you have children under the age of 6?



If you answered yes to either of these questions, your family may be at risk for Lead Poisoning. Home Projects done on lead-painted surfaces create harmful lead dust which can be extremely poisonous to children, during early development, and adults.

If your home was built prior to 1978 **DO NOT** attempt any remodeling or renovating projects without knowing the extent of the lead hazards within your home, especially if you have young children.

LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN

Children are the most at risk for lead poisoning. The most common route of exposure for children is ingestion of lead containing substances. Relatively small amounts of lead can cause lead poisoning in children and lead to severe health problems including:

- Cardiovascular system and kidney damage
- Damage to central and peripheral nervous systems
- Mineral replacement in blood and bone marrow
- Impaired IQ and other developmental & behavioral impacts.



is the best way to protect them from these hazards by taking actions to prevent further exposure.

It is strongly recommended that all children under the age of six be tested for elevated blood-lead concentrations. A blood test tells you what a child's recent exposure to lead has been, and

ADULT RISK

Lead may also cause permanent damage to adults. Many hobbies and work related activities pose sources of risk for adults, such as:

- Renovating old housing: demolition, sanding, burning or stripping paint
- Construction industry: demolition, plumbing (lead solder)
- Manufacturing industry: radiator repair, brass products, batteries...
- Lead in hobbies: lead glass, casting bullets or making fishing sinkers
- Living in houses with badly deteriorated lead paint

EFFECTS OF LEAD IN YOUR BODY



Once in the body, lead is distributed via the bloodstream to red blood cells, soft tissue and bone. Lead is a poison which binds with chemicals that aid biological reactions throughout the body. The resulting damage from lead poisoning may be permanent and, in some cases, fatal.

POISONING PREVENTION

The prevention of lead poisoning can be accomplished by understanding the hazards and health effects of lead and ensuring proper precautions are taken to control these hazards.

HAZARDS



Lead compounds such as white lead and lead chromate were widely used pigments in paint prior to 1978. Lead compounds, however, can also be found in varnishes and primers. Although the use of lead-based paint, in particular on interior surfaces, has declined over the years, most housing built prior to 1980 contains some lead-based paint surfaces.

Lead-Based paint hazards are most often found around windows, doors, stairways, in kitchens and in bathrooms. However, lead sources may be found in items, such as; crystal, ceramics, solders, candles, mini-blinds, batteries, porcelain surfaces, toys and other products.



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Additional lead poisoning information can be obtained on the Internet at the following sites:

www.michigan.gov (Search for "lead")

www.epa.gov/lead/nlic.htm

www.hud.gov

www.lead-safe-housing.org

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Lead Poisoning Is your home safe?



Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

