
Finding Lead in Your Home

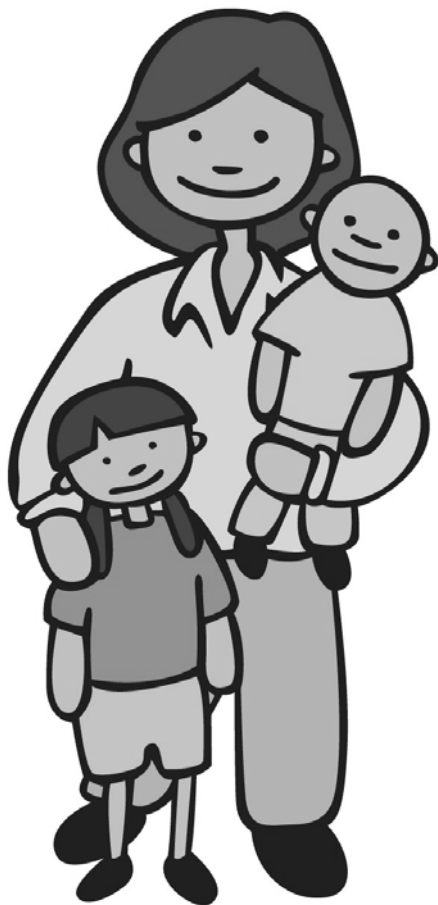


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Introduction

This booklet provides information to help you find sources of lead that may be hazards for your family. It contains:

- Questions to help you find out if **you are at risk**
- Recommendations of **what you can do** to protect your child
- Descriptions or examples of **where lead is found**
- Resources for more information

Some sections of this booklet may not apply to you. Questions at the beginning of each section will help you decide if the section applies.

It is important to know that, in Vermont, most children are lead poisoned by eating lead dust. The most common source of lead dust is lead paint in houses built before 1978. In 1978, lead was banned in house paint.

Children can also get lead poisoning from sources other than lead paint. Water, soil, and many products may contain lead. Lead may also be brought home from a job or an adult may have a hobby or pastime that uses lead.

All children should have a blood lead test at ages 1 and 2 years.

Lead in Paint

Are You At Risk

Do you live in a house built before 1978?

Yes No

If yes, assume your home has lead-based paint.

What You Can Do

- Check regularly for chipping, peeling, or disturbed paint.
- Block your child's access to chipping, peeling, or disturbed paint.
- If you rent, contact your landlord when you find chipping, peeling, and disturbed paint. Vermont law requires landlords to maintain paint in good condition.
- If you own, use lead-safe work practices to repair chipping, peeling, or disturbed paint.
- Use only a vacuum with a HEPA filter to clean up lead chips and dust. A vacuum without a HEPA filter blows lead dust back into the air.
- Use wet disposable towels to clean up lead chips and dust. Dry dusting or dry sweeping will spread the lead dust around.
- Use lead-safe work practices whenever you remodel or renovate your home.

Call Environmental Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention, for more information about lead paint hazards and safe work practices.

800-439-8550 or 802-865-7786

Where It Is Found

All painted surfaces should be checked for chipping, peeling and disturbed paint. Certain parts of the house need special attention.

- Windows

Paint can scrape off windows as they are opened and closed. Flakes and dust fall onto the window sill and into the window well.

- Doors

Lead dust and flakes can fall to the floor as doors are opened and closed. Beware that baby gates across doorways may scrape or chip paint, creating lead dust and chips.

- Baseboards

Baseboards are bumped and chipped in the normal course of everyday life.

- Floors and Stairways

Paint wears off floors and stairs as people walk. Lead in soil from outside can also be tracked in.

- Porches

Vermont's weather is hard on outdoor surfaces. Many porches have chipping, peeling paint on siding, railings, and floor.



Lead in Soil

Are You At Risk

Do you have bare soil around the foundation of a building (house/garage/shed) built before 1978?

Yes No

Do you live near a busy street or roadway?

Yes No

What You Can Do

- Leave shoes at the door to prevent tracking soil that contains lead into the house.
- Keep children from playing in bare soil along side older buildings and near roadways.
- Provide a lead-free sandbox.
- Cover bare soil with 6 to 8 inches of mulch, gravel, or lead-free soil.
- Plant grass over bare soil.
- Avoid planting vegetable gardens along side older buildings, near roadways, or any area where lead may be in the soil.
- Be aware that lead stays in the top layer of soil for years. The source may be gone, for example, leaded gas, but the lead remains in the soil.

Where It Is Found

Lead in soil remains in the top layer of soil for years.

- Lead may be found in soil near buildings that were painted with lead-based paint.
- Lead from car exhaust when leaded gas was used may be found in soil along side roads.
- Burning anything painted with lead paint sends lead into the air that falls back onto soil.
- Lead arsenate was regularly used as a pesticide in apple orchards. Soil in orchards or where orchards used to be may contain lead.
- Scraping, dry sanding, water blasting, or pressure washing lead paint or using a heat gun can send lead into the air that falls back onto soil.
- Soil near industries that use lead in the manufacturing process may contain lead.
- Outdoor shooting ranges may have lead in the soil.



Lead on the Job

Are You At Risk

Do you work with lead on the job?

Yes No

Check the list on the next page for examples of jobs that may involve lead.

What You Can Do



- Be careful not to bring lead home from the job.
- Remove work clothes and work shoes at work.
- Shower and wash face and hair at work or immediately when you get home.



- Keep street clothes and work clothes in separate lockers at work.
- Wash work clothes separately from other clothes.
- Keep work clothes and work shoes in plastic bags when transporting or before washing.



- Keep lead dust from your job out of your car. Be sure lead dust does not get on baby's car seat.
- Be aware that marine, auto, bicycle or other commercial paints may still contain lead.

Call Environmental Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention for more information about working with lead on the job and not bringing it home with you.

800-439-8550 or 802-865-7786

Automobile

Auto body painting or repairing
Auto and truck assembling or dismantling
Battery manufacturing, recycling or repairing
Radiator manufacturing or repairing

Construction Trades

Abrasive blasting or abating lead paint
Painting with or removing commercial paints
Plumbing
Renovating/remodeling buildings or metal structures
Salvaging/wrecking/torch cutting structures
Welding, riveting, or building metal structures

Firearms

Bullet, explosive, or flare manufacturing
Firearms manufacturing, repair, or shooting

Metal Working

Cable/wire manufacturing, recycling, splicing, or repairing
Metal casting, forging, grinding, polishing, or buffing
Metal heat treating/quenching/annealing
Metal mining, smelting or refining
Plating, electroplating, soldering, brazing or tinning
Scrap metal processing or recycling

Other

Adhesive or sealant manufacturing
Aircraft part manufacturing
Computer manufacturing or repairing
Ink, dye, or pigment use or manufacturing
Linotype printing
Electrical supply manufacturing
Paint manufacturing
Rubber or plastic manufacturing
Shipbuilding, repairing, or salvaging
Working with porcelain, pottery, ceramics, crystal, or glass

Lead in Water

Are You At Risk

Is your plumbing system old?

Yes No

Do you have brass or chrome fixtures?

Yes No

Have you tested your water for lead?

Yes No

What You Can Do

- Run water until it is cold to use for cooking, drinking, and making formula and ice cubes.
- Be aware that boiling water does not remove lead.
- Keep your children from drinking water from hoses. Vinyl in hoses may contain lead.
- Test your kitchen tap for lead.

Call the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory for information about testing your water.

800-660-9997 or 802- 863-7335

Where It Is Found

A home's plumbing system may contain lead in several places.

- Old pipes and fittings sometimes contain lead.
- Solder used in plumbing may contain lead. The Vermont Plumbing Code banned the use of leaded solder in drinking water systems in 1989.
- Fixtures, especially those made of brass or chrome, may contain lead.
- Brass water meters may contain small amounts of lead.
- Hot water dissolves lead more easily than cold water. This is why you should run your water until cold for cooking, eating, and making formula.



Lead in Hobbies and Pastimes

Are You At Risk

Do you engage in any hobbies or pastimes that use lead?

Yes No

Check the list on the next page for examples of hobbies and activities that may involve lead.

What You Can Do



- Do not allow children in the area where you do your hobby or pastime.

- Clean the area where you do your hobby using lead specific cleaning methods.

- Wash your hands thoroughly after using lead.

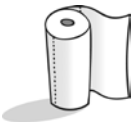
- Keep clothes used with your hobby separate from street clothes.

- Shower and wash face and hair immediately after using lead with your hobby or pastime.

- Wash clothes used with your hobby or pastime separately from other clothes.

- Be aware that marine, auto, bicycle or other commercial paints may still contain lead.

- Check "Lead on the Job," page 6 for other recommendations that may apply.



Arts and Crafts

Bronze casting
Collecting or painting lead figurines
Copper enameling
Jewelry making
Making or painting stained glass
Making pottery or ceramic ware with lead glazes and paints
Painting/printmaking/other fine arts (when lead white, flake white and chrome yellow pigments are involved)

Building and Repairing

Painting/stripping or repairing cars, boats, or bicycles
Painting parts of the house or furniture
Restoring antiques
Remodeling, repairing, and renovating homes
Soldering
Using salvaged building components

Games and Sports

Hunting, target shooting, fishing with lead weights
Making or repairing firearms
Melting lead for fishing sinkers or bullets
Playing with lead figurines
Using pool cue chalk
Working with bullets, shot, explosives, fireworks

Other

Distilling liquor
Maple sugaring using old equipment with lead
Repairing computers
Using lead solder with electronics

Lead in Consumer Products: Common

Are You At Risk

Does your child have metal or painted wood jewelry?

Yes No

Does your child play with metal keys?

Yes No

Does your child use products that have been recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission?

Yes No

What You Can Do

- Keep children away from products with lead.
- Do not let children play with metal keys or other metal objects.
- Check regularly with the Consumer Product Safety Commission for recalls of products with lead.

For recall information: www.cpsc.gov



Where It Is Found

This page gives examples of common products that may contain lead.

Children's Products Made in Other Countries

Children's jewelry

Crayons

Metal playground equipment

Metal toys

Painted toys

Products Often Handled by Children

Car and house keys

Key chains

Zipper pulls

Other

Automotive, marine, and commercial (non-house) paints

Aviation fuel

Car batteries

Computer parts

Fishing sinkers

Inks and dyes used in things such as fabrics and packaging

Lead shot

PVC plastic in vehicles

Radiator and auto body solder

Tattoo inks

Wheel weights in automobiles



Lead in Consumer Products: Household

Are You At Risk

Do you have antique furniture?

Yes No

Have you used salvaged building materials in your home?

Yes No

Do you use pottery or ceramics made in other countries, especially Mexico and China?

Yes No

Do you have vinyl miniblinds that did not come with a lead-free label?

Yes No

Do you have candles with metal-cored wicks?

Yes No

What You Can Do

- Be aware that antique furniture may have lead paint. Use safe work practices when refinishing.
- Use safe work practices when preparing salvaged building materials such as old doors and windows for reuse. Even stripped components may still have lead.
- Use only handmade dishes or pots for food or drinks that you know were made lead free.
- Do not store food in open cans, pottery or lead crystal.
- Be aware that vinyl miniblinds may contain lead.
- Do not burn candles with metal-cored wicks.

Where It Is Found

Many household products and furnishings may contain lead. This list gives examples.

Furnishings

Enamel bath tubs and sinks

Imported vinyl miniblinds

Painted or varnished antique furniture

Salvaged building materials including stripped, painted, or stained items

Tableware and Pots

Lead crystal

Lead-glazed pottery and ceramic ware, especially from Mexico and China

Metal pots with lead solder (samovars)

Pewter mugs or plates

Home Decorations

Antique paper weights or door stops

Antique toy soldiers and other models

Candle wicks with metal cores, especially imports from China and Mexico

Other

Electrical cords

Hoses



Lead in Consumer Products: Imported

Are You At Risk

Does your child eat candy from Mexico?

Yes No

Do you eat food that comes in imported cans?

Yes No

Do you use home remedies or cosmetics imported from other countries?

Yes No

What You Can Do

- Be aware that candy from Mexico may contain lead.
- Be aware that lead solder may still be used in cans from some countries.
- Avoid use of imported home remedies or cosmetics.

Where It Is Found

Products imported from some countries may contain lead. This list gives examples.

Home Remedies

Azarcon (Mexico/Central America) also called Rueda, Corol, Alarcon, Maria Luisa, Ligo
Ba-Baw-San (China)
Bala Goli (Asian Indian/Middle East)
Bint Al Zahab (Iran)
Bint Dahab (Saudi Arabia)
Bokhoor (Kuwait)
Ghasard (Asian Indian/Middle East)
Greta (Mexico)
Jin Bu Huan (China)
Kandu (Asian Indian/Middle East)
Pay-loo-ah (Vietnam)
Po Ying Tan (China)
Santrinj (Saudi Arabia)
Tibetan herbal vitamin
Traditional Saudi medicine



Imported Cosmetics

Kohl (Middle East, India, Pakistan, some parts of Africa)
also called Alkohl or Hashmi Surma
Litargirio (Dominican Republic)
Pakistani eye cosmetics
Surma (India)

Other

Candy from Mexico
Food cans with lead soldered seams
Spices from India



Resources

Vermont Department of Health

Environmental Health, Lead Poisoning Prevention
108 Cherry Street, PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402

800-439-8550

802-865-7786

<http://healthvermont.gov>

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Lead Hazard Reduction Program
58 East State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

800-290-0527

802-828-5064

<http://www.leadsafevermont.org>

