

What you can do

1 *Have your child tested for lead.*

Most children with lead poisoning don't look sick. The only way to know if a child is lead poisoned is to have a blood test.

You can ask your clinic or doctor to give your child a blood test for lead, or your local health department can assist you. If the lead level is high, your child will need more tests to make sure the lead level is coming down.

2 *Look out for lead in your home*

If your home was built before 1978, it most likely has lead paint. If your home was built before 1950, the paint contains more lead. Lead paint is a danger to your children if the paint is chipping, peeling, cracking or chalking. Lead can sometimes be found in vinyl mini-blinds, soil, water, hobby supplies, toys, dishes and pottery.

Look inside to see the most common areas where lead can be found. Protect your children by following the steps described inside.

Contact your local health department for more information about testing your home for lead. If lead is found, steps will need to be taken right away to prevent further problems.

3 *Clean up the lead!*

Once you know where the lead is, you can do something about it. You don't have to solve this problem by yourself. Your local health department knows about additional steps to clean up lead and resources for financial assistance to complete the work.

What you should know

The law

If you have renovation work done on your home, the person hired to do the work is required to give you information about lead poisoning.

If you are buying a home, before you purchase the owner or realtor must tell you (if known) if the home has lead hazards.

If you rent your home from someone else:

- ✓ Your landlord is required to tell you if the property has lead hazards before you sign a lease. Under federal law, property owners are required to provide tenants a copy of the U.S. government booklet *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home*, and to provide tenants the results of lead tests that have been done on the property.
- ✓ It is against the law for your landlord to evict, harass, or threaten you because of complaints made about a housing condition such as lead.

For more information:

Call your local health department or the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 608/266-5817.



look out
FOR LEAD

Wisconsin Childhood Lead
Poisoning Prevention Program
State of Wisconsin
Department of Health & Family Services
Division of Public Health
PPH 4535A (rev. 02/01)

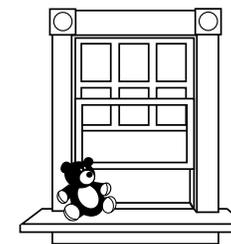
PARENTS

LOOK OUT FOR LEAD

Was your house or apartment

- *Built before 1950?*
- *Built before 1978 and having renovation or repainting done?*

Do you have children under the age of 6?



Why you should care about lead

Many homes and apartments built before 1978 have lead paint or varnish on the walls, woodwork, windows and floors. In homes built before 1950 there is a greater chance the paint contains lead. Lead can harm children.

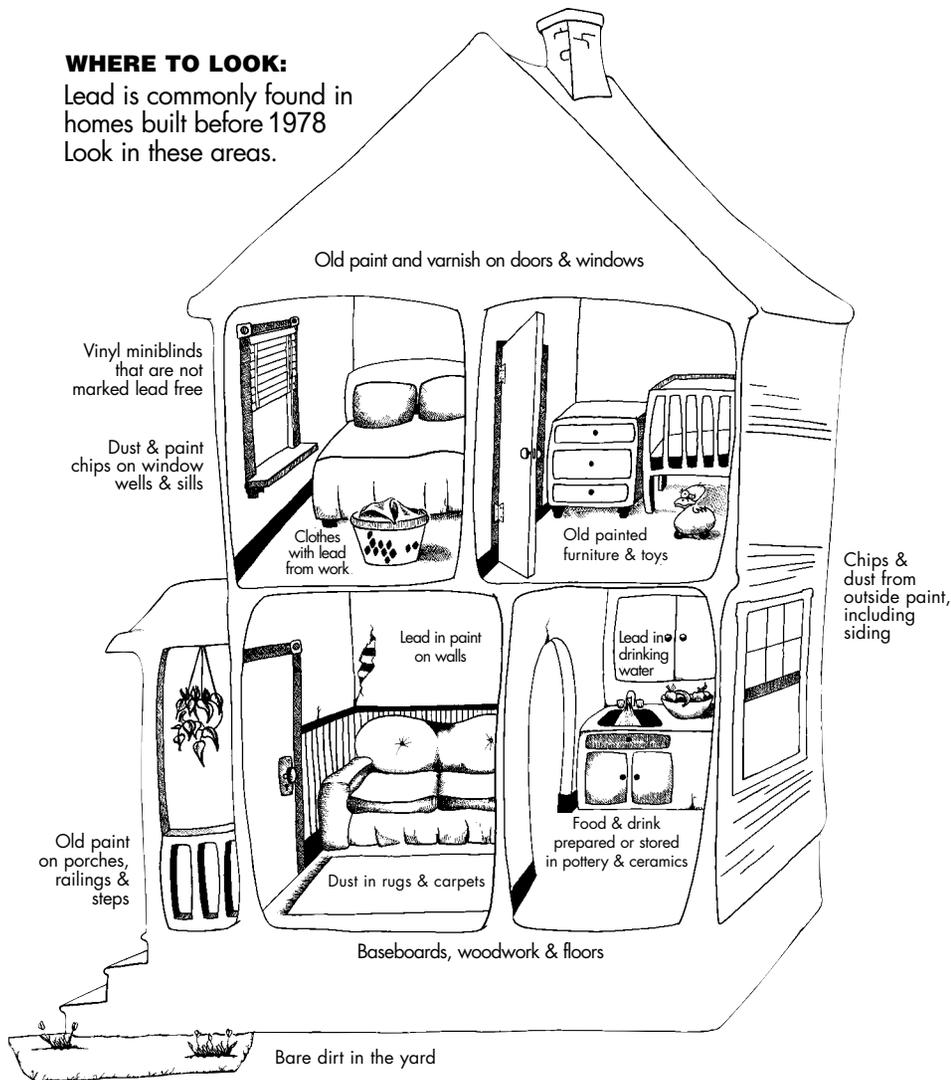
Children under six years old can easily be poisoned by dust or chips from lead paint. If they play near windows and other places with worn-out or damaged paint, they can get lead dust on their fingers and toys.

When they swallow lead dust it can cause illness. It can also cause problems with learning, growth, behaviors that can affect their entire life. Even small amounts of lead can be harmful.

PARENTS • LOOK OUT FOR LEAD

WHERE TO LOOK:

Lead is commonly found in homes built before 1978. Look in these areas.



Lead paint is often found inside a house on surfaces that rub together or get bumped like windows, floors, stairs and doors. Damage to paint on these surfaces can create lead dust and paint chips. Lead is also common on kitchen and bathroom walls, woodwork and ceilings. Outside walls, porches, columns, railings, windows and doors are often covered with lead paint.

Lead cleaning tips

Regular cleaning can keep lead in your home at low levels. Focus on areas where your children spend the most time.



Use a wet rag or wet mop to clean lead dust and paint chips from bare or vinyl flooring.

Vacuum carpets often to control lead dust or remove the carpets. Wash used rags/mops separately from other laundry or throw them away.



Use paper towels with soap and warm water to wash dust and paint chips from window wells, sills and woodwork. Rinse well.



If mini-blinds in windows are not marked "lead-free," replace them with other window coverings.



If you can, use a HEPA vacuum (with special filters) to clean up lead dust and paint chips. Vacuums with HEPA filters that pick up lead can be purchased or rented from hardware stores. Or your local health department may know where you can find one on loan.



Keep your children out of bare soil unless you have it tested and know it is safe.



Keep children away from peeling paint. Place furniture in front to block the area, or cover it with contact paper, duct tape, or cardboard.



Wash your children's hands after play or before eating, napping and bedtime.



Some foods can help keep lead out of your child's body, especially foods high in calcium and iron. This includes milk, cheese, yogurt, lean beef, chicken, turkey, green leafy vegetables (like spinach or lettuce), raisins and beans.



Foods high in fat can cause lead to stay in the body longer. Avoid foods like potato chips, snack food, deep-fried foods and bakery goods (donuts, cakes, cookies).



Do not dry scrape, power sand or burn old lead paint. These methods can cause greater problems than you had before. Mist surface with misting bottle as you scrape flaking paint to keep dust down.



If someone in your home works with lead, have them shower and change into clean clothes before entering the car or your home. If they don't, they can expose your children to lead dust.



Only cook and drink water from the cold water tap. Run for a couple of minutes before using.