

Lead Poisoning Know the Facts

Lead exposure is caused by swallowing or breathing lead. Fetuses, breastfed babies and children under 6 years old are most at risk for health problems.

FACT:

When lead is swallowed or breathed in, it can cause health problems.

Exposure to lead can be a serious issue for children because their bodies and nervous systems are still developing. Too much lead can cause problems with:

- Learning.
- Behavior.
- Speech.
- Hearing.
- Growth rates.
- Development of the nervous system.



FACT:

Most children are exposed to lead from paint in homes built before 1978.

When old paint cracks and peels, it makes dangerous dust. The dust is so small you cannot see it. Most children are exposed to lead when they breathe or swallow the dust on their hands and toys.



FACT:

A blood lead test is the only way to know if you or your loved ones have recent or on going exposures to lead.

All Michigan children must be tested at 12 months and 24 months of age, or by 72 months of age (age 6) if there is no record of a previous test, and at other ages depending on lead exposure risks. Most children who have lead in their blood do not look or act sick.



Protect Your Family

Test your home for lead.

1



If you live in a home built before 1978, have your home inspected by a licensed lead inspector. Visit Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe to find information on how to hire a certified lead inspector. Sometimes lead comes from things other than paint in your home, such as:

- Candy, toys, glazed pottery and folk medicine made in other countries.
- Work like auto refinishing, construction and plumbing.
- Soil and tap water.

Keep children away from lead paint and dust.

2



- Use wet paper towels to clean up lead dust. Be sure to clean around windows, play areas and floors.
- Wash hands and toys often, especially before eating and sleeping. Use soap and water.
- Use contact paper or duct tape to cover chipping or peeling paint.

Renovate safely.

3



Home repairs like sanding or scraping paint can make dangerous dust.

- Keep children and pregnant or breastfeeding people away from the work area.
- Make sure you and/or any workers are trained in lead-safe work practices.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe or call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 517-335-8885.