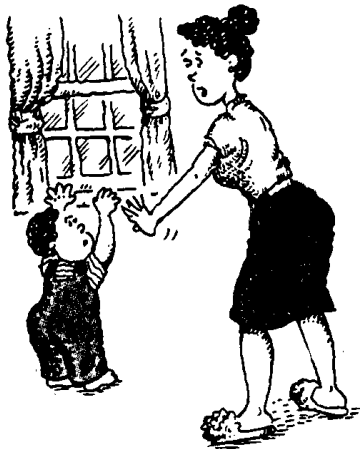


Is Your Child at Risk for Lead Poisoning?



How the Health Department Can Help

Is my child at risk?

- Children can become lead poisoned by swallowing or inhaling lead
- Lead dust on fingers can get into a child's mouth
- Lead may be found in:
 - Paint & varnish
 - Dust
 - Tap water
 - Glazed pottery
 - Dirt outside a house
 - Other places
- Homes and apartments built before 1978 can have lead paint and varnish
- Windows painted with lead paint are a major source of childhood lead poisoning
- Many young children have become lead poisoned by dust created during remodeling
- A woman with lead in her body may give it to her unborn baby

Why is LEAD so dangerous?

- Lead is poisonous and interferes with some of the body's basic functions
- Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health hazard threatening children today
- Lead poisoning can cause problems with learning, growth and behavior
- Even children who seem healthy can have high levels of lead in their bodies
- The harm caused by lead may never go away

Even small amounts of lead can harm your child's nervous system, including the brain



What can I Do about it?

- Ask your doctor about testing your child for lead poisoning
- Keep your child away from peeling paint and windows painted with lead paint
- Do not dry scrape, power sand, or burn lead paint
- A well-nourished child will absorb less lead. Feed your child a diet high in calcium, iron & vitamin C & low in fat
- Use cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Run cold water for at least 30 seconds before using it if it has been sitting in the pipes for several hours
- Keep children's hands clean
- Keep your house free of dust. Wet clean surfaces, and use a vacuum with a hepa filter
- Eliminate lead hazards in your home

Can the Health Department evaluate my home for lead hazards?



The Health Department can provide a free evaluation for lead hazards in your home, and information on how to remodel your home using lead safe practices if:

- Your home/apartment was built before 1978
- There is a child under the age of six who lives in or visits the home

If you meet these criteria please call the Washington County Health Department



Health Department
333 E. Washington St., Suite 1100
West Bend, WI 53095

262-335-4462
Fax: 262-335-4463
chnhealth@co.washington.wi.us

For more information see
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/lead>
<http://www.epa.gov/lead>



This pamphlet contains important information for you and your family about the harmful effects of lead poisoning. Lead poisoning can cause permanent injury to children. Please consider the information found in this pamphlet carefully.