

• Two-thirds of all U.S. housing contains lead based paint.

• According to the Environmental Defense Network, Pennsylvania has one of the highest risks for lead poisoning in the country.

• In our region more than 90% of the homes were built before 1978 when lead paint was still used.

• 1 in 4 children in our region have too much lead in their bodies.



Can you tell if this child is lead poisoned?

www.lead safepittsburgh.com



64 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1548
(412) 431-4449 Ext.205

Lead Safe Pittsburgh Who are we?

Lead Safe Pittsburgh is a coalition of more than sixty organizations dedicated to preventing lead poisoning among children and adults. Launched in 1997, the coalition includes key stakeholders of industry, public and non-profit organizations, elected officials, educators, child welfare experts and the medical community. Lead Safe Pittsburgh is administered through Healthy Home Resources, a non-profit organization working to prevent the environmental health risks facing families today.

Lead Safe Pittsburgh accomplishments include:

- Annual sponsorship of Lead Awareness Month
- Development of universal testing guidelines
- Community festivals and education sessions
- Participation at area home and trade shows
- Lead Star 2000 Award; Three Rivers Environmental Award Finalist



Lead Poisoning

What every parent should know



From your friends at
Lead Safe Pittsburgh

What is lead poisoning?

Lead can be found in old paint, soil and plumbing. It can make children sick if they eat or breath in lead. Children under the age of six years are more at risk. Lead poisoned children have permanent problems with learning, behavior and growth.

Who gets lead poisoning?

- Unborn children.
- Children less than six years old.
- Adults who work with lead.
- People in older homes.
- People with hobbies that use lead.

Where does lead come from?

- Dust from lead based paint.
- Soil close to a highway or with chips of lead based paint.
- Paint from houses built before 1978.
- Water from old lead pipes.
- Food stored in unglazed pottery.
- Exposure from adults who work with lead.
- Home renovation projects.

Why do children get lead poisoning?

- Young children may breathe dust or eat paint chips when playing.
- Young children may crawl and play in dusty areas.
- Children are less developed and can become sicker from lead.

How can lead poisoning affect your child?

Lead can cause:

- Brain damage and low IQ
- Nervous system damage
- Hearing problems
- Behavior problems
- Learning problems
- Headaches
- Irritability
- Sleeplessness
- Loss of energy
- Vomiting
- Constipation
- Poor appetite
- Stomachaches
- Coma, convulsions, or death

What can you do to stop lead poisoning?

- Have your child's blood tested for lead poisoning at ages 1 and 2.
- Have your home tested for lead paint.
- Wash children's hands and toys to remove dust.
- Remove shoes before entering the house.
- Clean floors and window sills with wet mops and cloths using a cleaning solution.
- Run cold water through the tap for a few minutes before use.
- Eat healthier foods especially those with iron, calcium and vitamin C.
- Don't try to remove lead paint yourself – hire a professional.
- Get guidance before you remodel.
- Store food in glass, plastic or stainless steel containers and use lead free dishes.



What may happen if your child is poisoned?

- You child may have more tests.
- Your home may be checked to find the lead.
- Your child may have to go to the hospital.

Is your child at risk for lead poisoning?

1. Does your child live in or regularly visit a house that was built before 1950? yes no
2. Does your child live in or regularly visit a house built before 1978 with recent or ongoing renovations or remodeling? yes no
3. Does your child have a brother/sister/friend who has or did have lead poisoning? yes no

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions your child may be at higher risk for lead poisoning. Please call your doctor to have your child tested for lead poisoning.

What should you do?

- Have your child tested for lead poisoning by calling your doctor or contact the Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Information Line: 1-800-440-5323.
- For a listing of people to help you get rid of lead in your home, please call 1-888-532-3547 or visit www.leadlisting.org
- Or cal your local health department for information about professionals who handle lead-based paint problems.
- For a list of available brochures, rules and information packets, please call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-5323 or visit www.epa.gov/lead/nlic.htm
- For more information, please call Lead Safe Pittsburgh at (412) 431-4449, ext. 205 or visit our website at www.leadsafepittsburgh.com
- Si desea recibir una copia de esta informción sobre el envenamiento del plomo en la sangre en español por favor llame a Gateway Health Plan al número 1-800-392-1147.

