Lead Poisoning Prevention

**Lead based paint** was used until 1978 on windows, porches, doors, baseboards, some walls, and painted siding. When chipping and peeling, lead based paint creates poisonous dust that damages children’s brains when it is taken in through hand to mouth contact.

Get every child tested for lead starting at age nine months at their doctor or at a clinic. Retest them each year until age six.

Wash children’s hands, toys, bottles, and pacifiers often.

Feed your child a diet rich in calcium and iron (fruits, vegetables, and lean meats). Give them whole milk until age two, and then 2% milk after that. Feed them a daily multivitamin. Avoid fatty and sugary foods.

Wet clean weekly. Mop all floors. Spray and wipe window sills, wells, and baseboards.

Do not let children play in bare dirt, near windows, or on porches with old paint. Cover bare dirt with grass. Take your shoes off at the door when you come inside.

Assume old paint contains lead and makes dust. Wet clean often to remove dust. Always work lead-safe. When working with old paint, work wet to limit dust. Use plastic sheeting to contain dust. Painting is a temporary fix. Wet clean after, and keep kids away.

Do not rent a house with old wood windows. Flush your pipes before you use the water in the morning and when you get home. Only use cold water for cooking and drinking. Use a NSF-53 filter.

Demolition can spread lead dust. When you see demolition nearby, keep kids inside. Close doors and windows. Wet clean windows and porches after the demolition is over.

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