

## What you can do if you live in a home built before 1978

### 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 likely contains more lead. Lead paint is a danger to your child if the paint is chipping, peeling, cracking or chalking.

Lead can sometimes be found in vinyl mini-blinds, soil, water, hobby supplies, jewelry, toys, dishes and pottery.

Look inside this pamphlet to see the most common areas where lead can be found. To protect your child, follow the steps described inside.

Contact your health department for more information on how to test your home for lead. If you find lead, 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. Contact your health department for more information on additional steps to clean up lead and resources for financial assistance to complete the work.

## What you should know *The lead laws for homes built before 1978*

If you have renovation work done on your home, the contractor doing the work must be a certified lead-safe renovator. You should receive the pamphlet, [Renovate Right](#), from the contractor before work begins.

If you are buying an older home, the owner or realtor must tell you if they know of any lead hazards in the home. They must give you the U.S. government booklet, [Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home](#).

If you rent your home:

- ✓ Your landlord must tell you if the property has known lead hazards before you sign a lease. Under federal law, property owners must provide you with a copy of the booklet, [Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home](#), and provide you with the results of any 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 health department or the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 608-266-5817. Or visit our website: [dhs.wi.gov/lead](http://dhs.wi.gov/lead).



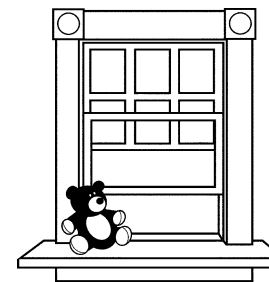
Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services  
Division of Public Health  
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health  
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## PARENTS

# LOOK OUT FOR LEAD

**Was your house or apartment  
*Built before 1978?***

**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.

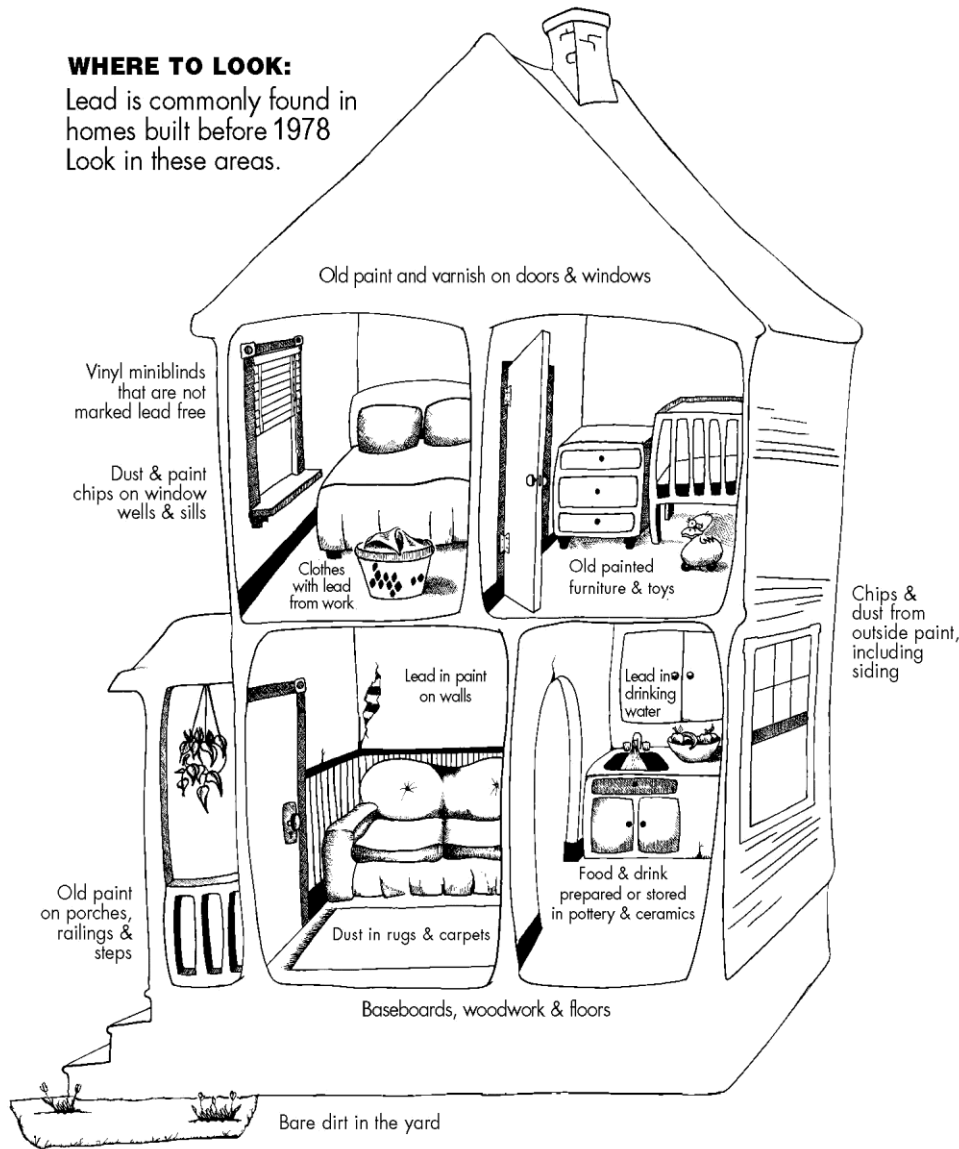
Children under six years old can easily be poisoned by dust or chips from lead paint. If they play near windows and other places with worn-out or damaged paint, they can get lead dust on their fingers and toys.

When they swallow lead dust it can cause illness. It can also cause problems with learning, behavior, and health that can affect them 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 help keep lead in your home at low levels. Focus on areas where your child spends the most time.



Vacuum carpets weekly to control lead dust, or remove the carpets. If you can, use a vacuum with a HEPA filter to clean up lead dust and paint chips. Your health department may know where you can find one to loan or borrow.



Weekly use a wet rag, wet mop, or Swiffer to clean lead dust and paint chips from bare or vinyl flooring. 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 weekly. Toss out used paper towels; rinse surfaces well.



If someone in your home works with lead, have them shower and change into clean clothes and shoes before entering the car or your home. If they don't, they can expose your child to lead dust. Wash these clothes separately from the rest of the family's clothes. In addition, any items used on the jobsite, such as lunch coolers or tool boxes, should be kept in the trunk.

## Protect your child



Do not dry scrape, power sand, or burn old lead paint. These methods can cause lead hazards. Mist surfaces with water as you scrape flaking paint to keep dust down.



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



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



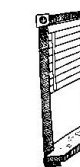
Wash your child's hands after play and before eating, napping, or bedtime.



Some foods can help keep lead out of the body, especially foods high in calcium and iron. This includes milk, cheese, yogurt, leafy vegetables, chicken, turkey, raisins, beans, citrus fruits, bell peppers, kiwi, berries, tomatoes, peas, and papaya.



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



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