

Understanding Lead

National Lead Poisoning
Prevention Week

October 22, 2024



National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

- Call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry and Tribal, state and local governments to reduce childhood lead exposure by increasing lead poisoning prevention awareness.
- October is National Children's Health Month: epa.gov/children/childrens-health-month
- Visit epa.gov/lead/nlppw for outreach materials, webinar registration & more.

The graphic features a light blue background with white clouds. At the top left, a dark blue box contains the text "National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week". To its right, a light blue box contains "October 20-26, 2024". Below these are three circular icons: a laptop with a checkmark labeled "Get the facts", a family silhouette labeled "Get your child tested", and a house labeled "Get your home tested". The central text reads "Bright futures begin lead-free" above a photograph of diverse young children in a classroom. The bottom section contains social media handles "#LeadFreeKids" and "#NLPPW2024", and logos for "LEAD-FREE KIDS For a Healthier Future", "EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency", "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT", "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES", and "CDC U.S. CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION".

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

October 20-26, 2024

Get the facts

Get your child tested

Get your home tested

Bright futures begin lead-free

#LeadFreeKids
#NLPPW2024

LEAD-FREE KIDS For a Healthier Future

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CDC U.S. CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



Outline

- Potential Sources of Lead Exposure
- Vulnerable Populations
- Impacts and Effects of Lead Exposure
- Taking Action





http://mfritz8science.wikispaces.com/file/view/lead_1.jpg/262242078/lead_1.jpg

What is Lead?

- Bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust.
- Impossible to identify with the naked eye.
- Does not biodegrade or disappear from the environment over time.

Where do you think lead
can be found?



Lead-based Paint

- Found in older homes built before 1978.
- Major source of exposure when not maintained.
 - i.e., peeling, chipping, cracking
- Chips and dust can scatter and become a hazard, which can be breathed in or swallowed by children, residents and workers.
- Renovation, repair, or remodeling projects in a pre-1978 home can easily create dangerous lead dust.

Potential Sources of Exposure

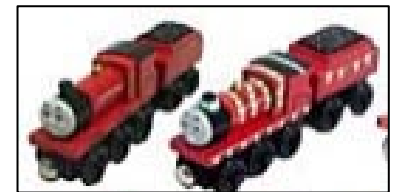
- Painted farm equipment and boats
- Imported pottery, candles, older mini blinds
- Toys
- Ceramicware
- Solder
- Batteries
- Ammunition
- Fishing tackle
- Old cellphones in disrepair
- Cosmetics



Photo by Randy Fath on Unsplash



Imported pottery from Mexico



Toy Recall from
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2007/rc2-corp-recalls-various-thomas-friends-wooden-railway-toys-due-to-lead-poisoning>

Potential Sources of Exposure

- Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode.



Lead pipes



Faucets

Potential Sources of Exposure

- Lead can enter soil
- Lead in soil can:
 - Settle on or be absorbed by plants
 - Get tracked into the house on the bottom of shoes
 - Be inhaled if resuspended in the air



Use raised garden beds

Potential Sources of Exposure

- Imported materials
 - Spices
 - Pottery
- Ammunition and fishing tackle



Let's review: What are some sources of exposure to lead?

Vulnerable Populations



Children
under age 6



Adults
through jobs,
hobbies or
cultural
practices



Pregnant and
nursing people

Vulnerable Populations



Children under age 6



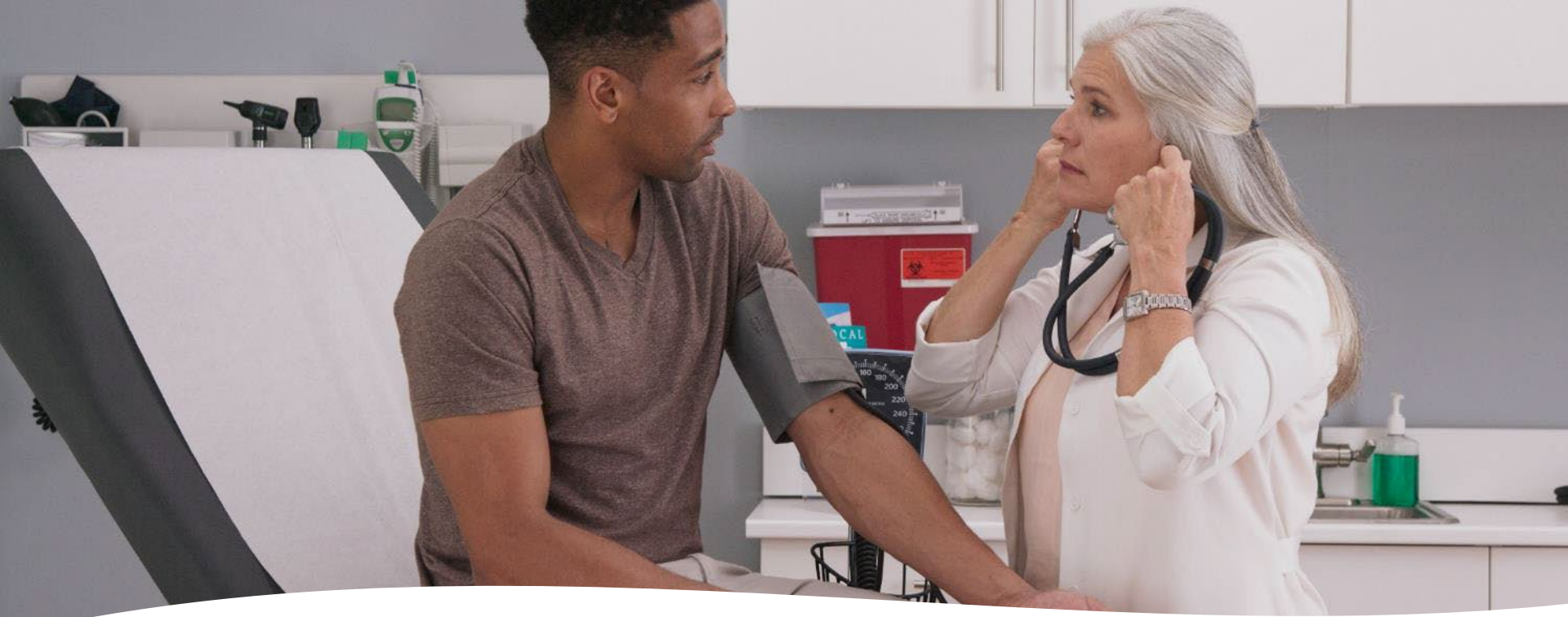
Health Effects: Children

- Behavior and learning problems
- Lower IQ and hyperactivity
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Anemia

Vulnerable Populations



Adults through jobs, hobbies or cultural practices



Health Effects: Adults

- Increased blood pressure and incidence of hypertension
- Decreased kidney function
- Reproductive problems (in both men and women)

Vulnerable Populations



Pregnant and nursing people



Health Effects: Pregnant People

- Lead can pass from the parent, exposing the fetus or breastfeeding infant.
- Puts the parent at risk for miscarriage.
- Baby may be born too early or too small.
- Hurts the baby's brain, kidneys and nervous system.



Health Effects: Wildlife

- Lead can also impact wildlife species, such as birds, mammals and amphibians.
- Animals can be exposed to lead from mining, facility emissions and lead-based paint.

Taking Action

Lead exposure and lead poisoning is preventable!





Keep Homes Clean & Dust- Free

- Wet mop floors and hard surfaces.
- Wipe down hard surfaces with a wet cloth.
- Inspect and maintain painted surfaces.
- Wet wipe peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking paint.



Eat a Diet High in Iron, Calcium & Vitamin C

- Wash food thoroughly with clean water prior to eating.
- Do not eat food or drink water cooked or stored in chipped or cracked lead-crystal, lead-glazed pottery or lead-porcelain cookware.



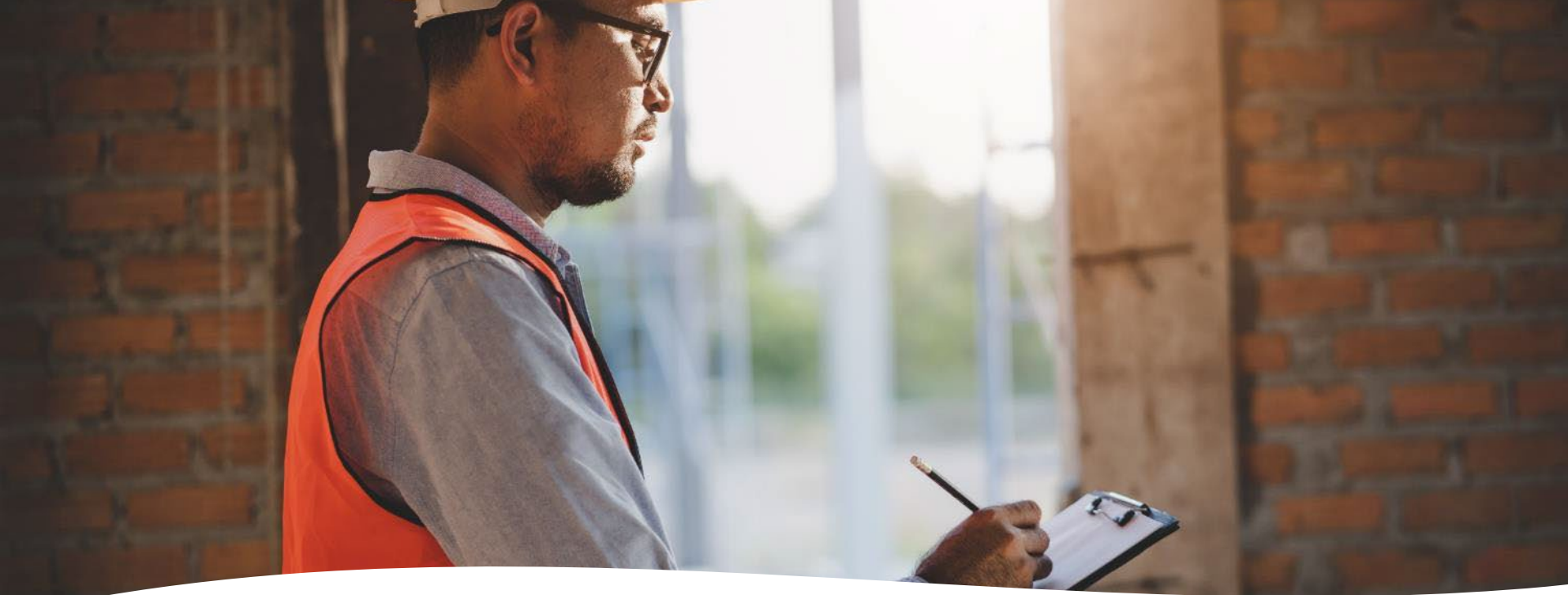
Wash Hands

- Use soap and water (warm or cold) to wash children's hands several times a day.
- Adults should wash their hands after participating in activities in which they may have come in contact with lead.



Play in Grass

- Play in grassy/non-contaminated bare soil areas.
- Use designated picnic, camping & hiking areas.
- Wipe, remove shoes and wash hands after playing outdoors.
- Wipe off pet's paws.
- Place dust mats inside and outside your home.



Hire Certified Lead Professionals

- Hire a certified lead professional for renovation and repair work on pre-1978 homes.
 - www.epa.gov/lead/findacontractor
- Or use do-it-yourself (DIY) lead-safe work practices to keep yourself and others safe
 - www.epa.gov/lead/rrp-diyers



Shower & Change

- Clean or remove work clothes and shoes before entering your home.
- Wash work clothes separately.
- Shower after activities in which you may have been exposed to lead.



Wash Toys, Pacifiers & Bottles

- Wash children's pacifiers, bottles, and toys, like stuffed animals, often.
- Do not let children chew on painted toys, window sills or other painted surfaces.



Run Your Water

- Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or washing dishes
- Use a water filter that is certified to remove lead
- Clean faucet screens regularly



Run Your Water

- Contact your water utility or a licensed plumber to:
 - Determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (service line) is made from lead
 - www.epa.gov/protectyourtap
 - Test your water for lead
 - Learn about lead levels in your drinking water



Getting Your Child Tested

- Lead exposure often occurs with no obvious symptoms
- A blood test is the only way to know if a child has lead in their blood
- Testing is generally recommended at ages 1 and 2

Which of these actions do
you think you will start
using?



Protect Your Family

Before You Buy or Rent

- Before signing a lease or contract, homebuyers and renters have the right to know whether lead is present.

Federal Law Requires Buyers & Renters Receive



The image shows the cover of a blue pamphlet titled "Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home". The cover features three photographs: a family with a baby, a crawling baby, and a row of houses. Below the photos are the logos for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The date "March 2021" is printed in the bottom left corner.

Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home

 United States Environmental Protection Agency

 United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

March 2021

- A copy of the *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home* pamphlet
- Any information about the presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards
- Disclosure of information in or attached to the contract/lease

Submit complaints to EPA at
1-800-424-5323



Conclusion

- We discussed:
 - Potential sources of lead exposure.
 - How lead harms children and adults.
 - Lead's impacts on the environment and wildlife.
 - Actions that can be taken to prevent potential lead exposure.

What questions do you have
about the information we
covered today?

National Lead Information Center

1 (800) 424-LEAD [5323]

- Ask for information about lead, lead hazards and lead exposure prevention.
- Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm ET (except federal holidays).
- Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at **1-800-877-8339**.

Thank You!

Bright futures begin lead-free

For more information, you can contact:

- Chloe Durand, durand.chloe@epa.gov
- Elliott Smith, smith.elliott@epa.gov

Visit us online at:

- www.epa.gov/lead
- <https://espanol.epa.gov/plomo>