



# FACT SHEET

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Prevention, Pesticides,  
and Toxic Substances  
Agency  
(7404)

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## Lead Hazard Prevention in Homes Pamphlet Released

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) have released for distribution and reproduction a pamphlet titled *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home*. This 14-page pamphlet provides prevention tips on reducing exposure to lead hazards from paint, dust, and soil in residential areas. Its publication was directed by Congress, which charged EPA with developing a lead hazard information pamphlet to inform families about how to reduce exposure to lead hazards in the home.

EPA developed this pamphlet in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CPSC, and 14 other federal agencies involved in the fight to eliminate lead poisoning. In addition to supplementing EPA, HUD, and CPSC's public education programs, the publication will be distributed under the regulation developed by EPA and HUD dealing with sales, rentals, and renovations of older housing.

### LEAD HAZARDS IN HOUSING

Approximately three-quarters of the nation's housing stock built before 1978 contains lead-based paint. When properly managed and maintained, this paint poses little risk. If improperly managed, however, lead from paint can threaten the health of occupants, especially children under 6 years of age. Over time, low-level exposure to lead from paint, dust, soil, and plumbing can cause a range of

#### Simple Steps To Protect Your Family From Lead Hazards

*If you think your home has  
high levels of lead:*

- ▶ Get your young children tested for lead, even if they seem healthy.
- ▶ Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- ▶ Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods.
- ▶ Get your home checked for lead hazards.
- ▶ Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- ▶ Wipe soil off shoes before entering house.
- ▶ Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- ▶ Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling or renovating (call 1-800-424-LEAD for guidelines).
- ▶ Don't use a belt sander, propane torch, dry scraper, or dry sandpaper on painted surfaces that may contain lead.
- ▶ Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.

National Lead Information Clearinghouse at  
(800) 424-LEAD.

health problems including permanent damage to the brain, nervous system, and kidneys. In sufficient levels, lead can also cause health problems in adults. Because of its effects on fetal development, lead exposure is particularly harmful to pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. Such exposure is largely preventable if people take precautionary measures.

### **PRIVATE REPRODUCTION**

The final pamphlet is in the public domain and may be reproduced by individuals or organizations without permission. Negatives for printing the color version of the pamphlet and copy suitable for photocopy reproduction in black and white are available by calling the

### **ALTERNATE LANGUAGES**

This pamphlet is available in English and Spanish. The agencies are also exploring opportunities for public and private partnerships to translate the pamphlet into other languages used within the United States.

Organizations interested in working with EPA and CPSC to print and distribute the pamphlet, or to develop new pamphlet translations should write to:

**Protect Your Family  
Program Development Branch  
U.S. EPA (7404)  
401 M St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- For a copy of *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home*, other fact sheets, or proposed rules, call the National Lead Information Clearinghouse (NLIC) at (800) 424-LEAD, or TDD (800) 526-5456 for the hearing impaired. You may also send your request by fax to (202) 659-1192 or by Internet E-mail to [ehc@cais.com](mailto:ehc@cais.com). Visit the NLIC on the Internet at <http://www.nsc.org/nsc/ehc.html>.
- Bulk copies of the pamphlet are available from the Government Printing Office (GPO) at (202) 512-1800. Refer to the complete title or GPO stock number 055-000-00507-9. The price is \$26.00 for a pack of 50 copies. Alternatively, persons may reproduce the pamphlet, for use or distribution, if the text and graphics are reproduced in full. Camera-ready copies of the pamphlet are available from the National Lead Information Clearinghouse.
- For specific questions about lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards, call the National Lead Information Clearinghouse at (800) 424-LEAD, or TDD (800) 526-5456 for the hearing impaired.
- The EPA pamphlet and rule are available electronically and may be accessed through the Internet.  
**Electronic Access:**  
**Gopher:** [gopher.epa.gov:70/11/Offices/PestPreventToxic/Toxic/lead\\_pm](http://gopher.epa.gov:70/11/Offices/PestPreventToxic/Toxic/lead_pm)  
**WWW:** [http://www.epa.gov/docs/lead\\_pm](http://www.epa.gov/docs/lead_pm)  
**Dial up:** (919) 558-0335  
**FTP:** <ftp.epa.gov> (To login, type "anonymous." Your password is your Internet E-mail address.)