

Something You Can't See Could Be Hurting Your Child!

Lead poisoning is one of the top childhood environmental health problems facing Louisiana's children. Learn how you can protect your child from lead poisoning.

Did You Know.....

- All children should have their first lead screening by the time they turn 1?
- Exposure to lead can be dangerous for the developing brains of infants and toddlers?
- Children can become lead poisoned by putting their hands or other objects contaminated with lead into their mouths?
- Many Louisiana homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint?
- In Louisiana lead can be found in the soil and drinking water from lead pipes?

What You Can Do to Keep Your Child Safe From Lead Exposure:

- Ask your doctor to screen your young children for lead, even if they seem healthy.
- Keep the area where your children play as dust-free and clean as possible.
- Take off your shoes when entering your house.
- Clean your floors with a damp mop weekly to control lead dust.
- Vacuum carpets and upholstery with Hepa vacuums every week.
- Make sure your children don't chew on painted surfaces, such as toys or window sills, or eat paint chips.
- Frequently wash your child's hands and toys.
- If you use tap water for drinking or cooking, make sure you use cold water.
- Spread the word about lead exposure to your friends and family, where your child may spend time.

Visit: ldh.la.gov/lead

for more information on how to prevent childhood lead poisoning, or contact the Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LHHCLPPP) at (504) 568-8254.



 **LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH**
Public Health

Lead Poisoning Risk Checklist

Is your family at risk for lead poisoning?



chipped paint



lead pipe



dirty work boots



lead in the soil

If the answer is yes, mark a ✓

1. _____	Was your residence built before 1978? Most homes built before 1978 contain lead-based paint.
2. _____	Do you see walls, furniture or window sills in your home with chipping or peeling paint? Lead-based paint is unsafe if it peels, chips or cracks.
3. _____	Do your children play in the dirt near your home? Soil around homes with lead-based paint can contain lead chips, dust or flakes. Children can accidentally swallow this soil or bring it in the house on their shoes.
4. _____	Have you done any renovations in your home recently? Renovations may cause lead dust.
5. _____	Does your drinking water come from lead pipes? Lead pipes are dull grey and scratch easily with a key or penny.
6. _____	Does your child play with toys made outside of the United States? Toys from outside of the U.S. often contain lead.
7. _____	Have your neighbors' children or your child's playmates ever had a high lead blood test reading? If so, your children could be at risk because they play in the same places.
8. _____	Do you store any food in pottery containers? Imported pottery usually contains lead.
9. _____	Do you or someone you live with work where lead is used, such as in construction, painting, iron work, automobile repair or furniture refinishing? Lead can get on work clothes. Work clothes should be removed before coming into the house. Work clothes should be washed separately from the clothes you wear around your family. Please remove your shoes before entering your home as lead can easily be tracked indoors.

If you have answered YES to any of these questions, visit ldh.la.gov/lead, or contact the Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LHHCLPPP) at (504) 568-8254 for information on how you can have your home checked for lead.

Have Your Children Under 6 Screened For Lead Poisoning!