

What is Lead?

Lead is a toxic metal that our bodies cannot use. Lead in the body blocks essential minerals in the body such as iron and calcium. Lead poisoning can cause learning, hearing and behavioral problems and can harm a child's brain, kidneys and other organs.

Pregnant women poisoned by lead can transfer lead to a developing fetus, resulting in adverse developmental effects. If a pregnant woman is exposed to lead, she may increase her risk of premature birth, miscarriage and low birth weight of her baby.

Most children with lead poisoning usually do not look or act sick. Even children who have high levels of lead in their body may seem healthy. The only way to know if a child has lead poisoning is by getting a blood test.

Children are at greatest risk in the early years of their life. By law, all children, at about age 1 or 2, must be tested for lead poisoning. **The intellectual and behavioral damage done to children can be prevented, but once done, it cannot be reversed.**

WHERE IS LEAD FOUND?

Paint: Lead can be found in paint that was made before 1978. Lead-based paint can be found on old wood windows, doors, stairs, walls, fences and porches. Lead paint is hazardous when it is chipping, flaking and cracking.

Dust: Lead dust in the home comes from sanding and scraping of lead-based painted surfaces. Lead dust also comes from rubbing leaded surfaces together such as opening and closing an old window.

Soil: Lead in soil comes from exterior lead-based paint chips that have fallen off of old houses, buildings or other structures onto the soil.

Other Sources: Lead can also be found in imported candies, toys and household furniture, folk remedies, ceramic dishes, ethnic cosmetics and contaminated water from old plumbing fixtures. Certain hobbies and occupations such as painters, contractors, jewelry making and ceramic/pottery making can also expose children and adults to lead.



Childhood lead poisoning remains a major environmental health problem in the U.S.



Many houses and apartments built before 1978 have lead-based paint; moreover, homes built before 1950 are even more likely to contain more lead. It is estimated that over 85% of occupied housing units in New Haven contain lead-based paint. Lead from paint, dust and soil are serious health hazards if not taken care of properly and safely. Federal law requires that individuals receive certain information before renting, buying, or renovating homes built before 1978.

As of April 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring contractors who work on homes, schools and childcare facilities be certified in using lead-safe work practices. The EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) applies to anyone who is paid to do work that disturbs painted surfaces. This group includes:

- ◆ Painters
- ◆ Renovation and remodeling contractors
- ◆ Electricians
- ◆ Plumbers
- ◆ Maintenance Workers
- ◆ Landlords

STEPS TO PREVENT LEAD POISONING

- ◆ Stay away from chipping and flaking paint
- ◆ Wash children's hands often, especially before eating and before bedtime
- ◆ Eat healthy, nutritious, well-balanced meals and snacks
- ◆ Place washable mats inside and outside entry doors
- ◆ Leave shoes at the door before entering the house to avoid tracking in lead from soil
- ◆ Use cold tap water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Let the water run for 1 to 2 minutes before using

For more information on the Lead Hazard Control Program contact:

New Haven Health Department
Bureau of Environmental Health
54 Meadow Street, 9th Floor
New Haven, CT 06519
(203) 946-8174

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
TONI N. HARP
MAYOR

FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISONING

*U.S. Department of Housing &
Urban Development Office of Healthy
Homes and Lead Hazard Control*

- ◆ Eligible property owners may qualify for a forgivable loan of up to \$9,000 per unit for lead based paint hazard control in housing built prior to 1978.
- ◆ Loans are 0% interest, for a 5-year term and forgiven at a rate of 20% per year through the term of the loan
- ◆ At year 5, your loan will be
- ◆ **FULLY FORGIVEN**



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Join us in the fight to end childhood lead poisoning.



In 2014, the City of New Haven Health Department's Bureau of Environmental Health, assisted 107 children whose blood lead levels were at or above 10 micrograms per deciliter. Over the past 20 years, the number of reported cases of childhood lead poisoning in the City of New Haven has declined, from 420 children at or above 20 micrograms per deciliter reported in 1995 to 107 children at or above 10 micrograms per deciliter in 2014.

This success was only achievable by the implementation of a comprehensive Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Program made possible with assistance provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), together with the involvement of New Haven residents and homeowners. With your help, the number of pediatric lead poisoning cases will continue to decline.

The City of New Haven has received \$3,231,610 from HUD, of which, \$1,800,000 shall be made available over a three year period to provide funding to homeowners to undertake lead hazard control activities in private rental housing units.

Applications are now being accepted from property owners for **0% deferred** loans to assist with the eradication of lead hazards. **These deferred loans are completely forgiven after five (5) years; therefore, borrowers are cleared of any financial obligation.**

For details regarding this program and how to apply, please contact the New Haven Health Department's, Bureau of Environmental Health at (203) 946-7420.



**The federal government
banned lead-based
paint from housing in
1978.**