

Who can get lead poisoning?

Anyone. Children can be poisoned by lead when they eat or inhale dust or other materials containing lead. Children between six months and six years of age are at the highest risk.

Where is lead found?

- In the paint of older homes (inside and outside). Lead is in **paint chips** and **dust**.
- Dirt, old water pipes, hobby areas and workplaces, certain imported candies and folk remedies, varnishes on antiques, old painted toys and pottery.

Why are children at highest risk?

Small children put everything in their mouths. They play on the ground and floor where lead paint chips and dust may have fallen. When children chew on things with lead or lead dust, they may become poisoned by lead. Children also:

- Put fingers and toys into their mouths.
- Chew and put their mouth on painted windowsills, furniture, and railing.
- Eat dirt.
- Eat paint chips.

How can I tell if my children have lead poisoning?

- Have a blood test done by a clinic or doctor.

Have your child tested at ages 1 and 2 years old if they are at risk of lead poisoning. Older children should be tested if you think they were exposed to lead paint or other hazards.

There is NO safe level of lead in the blood.

What are the signs of lead poisoning that I should look for in my children?

- Often, there are no signs. Your children can have lead poisoning and not look or act sick.
- Some children may get sick to their stomach and feel tired or crabby. To be certain they don't have lead poisoning, have them tested.



How can I protect my children from lead poisoning?

- Cover chipped and peeling surfaces. Even temporary covers using duct tape and cardboard can help.
- If remodeling a home or apartment built before 1978 use a professional certified in lead-safe renovation. This is required by state and federal regulation.
- Clean floors, windowsills, and inside window wells frequently using:
 - » Disposable rags or mops being sure to throw them away after cleaning.
 - » Soapy water and rinsing well with clean water.
 - » A HEPA vacuum. Call Project Home for a low cost rental at (608) 246-3737.
- Feed your children a diet low in fat and high in calcium, Vitamins C and D, and iron.
- Wash your children's hands often and ALWAYS before eating.
- Wash your child's toys often.
- Run your water every morning before using it.
- Have your children tested once a year for lead poisoning.

Will the damage caused by lead poisoning go away?

The damage may not go away. That is why it is important to get rid of lead hazards in your home and test children at risk of lead poisoning.

How can I find out if there are lead hazards in my home?

According to state and federal regulations, when you buy or rent a home or apartment built before 1978 the seller or landlord is required to provide information about possible lead paint hazards. If you haven't received this information or are concerned about possible hazards in your home, you can contact Public Health Madison & Dane County, (608) 266-4821, for additional information on lead or schedule an inspection of your home.

All children at risk for lead poisoning should be tested at 1 and 2 years of age. Call your doctor or Public Health Madison & Dane County to make an appointment.

Public Health Madison & Dane County
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Rm. 507
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266-4821
www.publichealthmdc.com

For more information about lead poisoning, call Public Health Madison & Dane County: (608) 266-4821.



Lead Risk Quiz

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Was your home built before 1978? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you have cracking, chipping, or peeling paint on your walls, windowsills, or the outside of your house? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are you remodeling or repairing your home? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Do your children put non-food items into their mouths? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Do your children have a brother, sister, cousin or playmate with lead poisoning? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Do your children spend several hours a day at an older home other than their own? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you answered **YES** to one or more of these questions, your children may be at risk for lead poisoning. Get your children tested right away.

Lead Poisoning

Are Your Children At Risk?

Lead poisoning can cause:

- developmental problems
- learning disabilities
- behavior problems



 **Public Health**
MADISON & DANE COUNTY
Healthy people. Healthy places.

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