What is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal. It does not have a particular taste or smell. The letters “Pb” are often used to refer to lead. Our bodies do not need lead, but if it gets into our bodies it acts like a calcium and is stored mostly in bones.

Where is Lead found?

Lead can be found in things such as paints, soil, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, solder, some pipes, glazed pottery & ceramics. To find out the latest information about lead in products, check the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s home page: www.cpsc.gov.

How Does Lead Enter the Body?

Children can get lead in their body if they:

♦ Put their hands or other objects covered with lead dust in their mouths
♦ Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead
♦ Breath lead dust

Should Your Children Be Tested For Lead?

Babies should be tested for lead at 6 months if your home was built before 1978 or if you think your home has lead in it. All children should be tested at 1 year. If your home contains lead paint or you use lead at your job or in a hobby, then your children should be tested every year until they are 6 years old.

How Do High Levels Of Lead Affect Children?

If not detected early, children with high levels of lead in their bodies can suffer from damage to their brain and nervous systems, possibly resulting in behavior problems, decreased I.Q., slowed growth, hearing problems and headaches.

Common Sources of Lead

♦ House dust
♦ Cigarette smoke
♦ Crayons made in China
♦ Colored foil seals on wine bottles
♦ Canned foods sealed with lead solder
♦ Pool cue chalk
♦ Colored inks (comics)
♦ Plastic coatings on electrical wire
♦ Bronze items
♦ Brass items (Keys)
♦ Fishing sinkers
♦ Curtain weights
♦ Plastic mini blinds
♦ Lead crystal glassware
♦ Painted kitchen utensils
♦ Lead-painted wood finished in paint
♦ Metal wires
♦ Old toys with lead paint
♦ Jewelry (ceramic and metal)
♦ Cosmetics (Surma and kohl)
♦ Antique dolls
♦ Cultural medicines (Greta, azarcon, paylooah)
♦ Hobbies (stained glass, ceramics, artist paints)
♦ Food grown in soils high in lead
What Can You Do To Protect Your Family?

- If you suspect your home has lead hazards, you can take immediate steps to protect your family:
  - Clean up paint chips immediately. If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
  - Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly.
- Afterwards, thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads.
- Wash children’s hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time.
- Keep play areas clean.
- Keep children from chewing windowsills or other painted surfaces.

Where Can You Get More Information On Lead?

The National Lead Information Center
Call 1-800-424-LEAD to learn more about protecting children from lead poisoning and for other information on lead hazards.
www.epa.gov/lead
EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791

Consumer Products Safety Commission Hotline
Call 1-800-638-2772 to request information on lead in consumer products, to report an unsafe consumer product or a product related injury
www.cpsc.gov

Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control
Call (202) 755-1785 for more information about lead in housing and communities
www.hud.gov/office/lead

Local Poison Center
Call 1-800-222-1222 if you think your child may have been exposed to lead.

State Public Health Department—call your state public health for any questions about lead, having your children or home tested for lead and for the resources available in your state concerning lead.
- Colorado Dept of Public Health & Environment 1-800-886-7689
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality 406-444-2544
- North Dakota Department of Health 701-328-5150
- South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources 605-773-3151
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality 801-536-4400
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality 307-777-7758

Blood-Lead Testing
Call your health care provider or the department of health. They can either provide blood lead testing or refer you to someone who can.

CALL ANYTIME FREE!
1-877-800-5554
Rocky Mountain Pediatric Environmental Health Line

DENVER HEALTH
Level One Care for ALL

RMPDC
Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center

NATIONAL JEWISH MEDICAL
Global Leader in Lung, Allergic and Immune Diseases