



Protecting Children from Lead Poisoning

KENDALL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
811 West John Street, Yorkville, IL 60560 630-553-9100



Clues that a Painted Surface Contains Lead

Bright Colors



Alligator Flaking



Chalking



Lead poisoning is the number one environmental disease in children under the age of six. Ingestion of lead dust is the leading cause of elevated blood lead levels.

Hand to mouth activity of young children is the most common way lead enters the child's body.

Currently, the lead threshold is 5 ug/dL (micrograms lead per deciliter of whole blood). Note: A microgram is about the size of a grain of sugar.

All children 6 months through 6 years old should be assessed for their risk of lead poisoning. Illinois state law requires all children entering day care, nursery school, preschool or kindergarten to provide proof of a blood lead test or a lead assessment.

A child may be at risk if:

- The child spends time in a building built before 1978
- Renovation has been done to the house just before or during the time the child lived in the house
- House is near heavy industry or traffic where lead has contaminated the ground
- A family member works with lead
- Lead-containing pottery or folk remedies
- A brother or sister has an elevated blood lead level
- The child plays in soil
- The child eats off lead-glazed dishes or chews on a lead-painted crib or toy

Protect your child from Lead

- Wash your children's hands before they eat.
- Provide foods high in iron and calcium (lean meat, eggs, raisins, greens, milk, cheese, fruit and potatoes) which decreases the binding effect of lead in a child's system.
- Clean up chipping and peeling paint inside and outside of home.
- Clean up window sills, lead dust with damp rag/mop.
- Wash your child's toys often. Throw away lead-painted toys.
- Do not store food in open cans or pottery.
- If you work with lead, remove clothes before coming home. Wash work clothes separately.
- Run cold water for a few minutes before using it for cooking and drinking. Do not use water from the hot water tap for cooking, drinking or making formula.



For further questions call Kendall County Health Department at (630)553-9100 or the Illinois Department of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 217-557-5097 or 800-545-2200.