
Families of Lead Exposed Children

[RESOURCES >](#)

[LAWS & RULES >](#)

[PUBLICATIONS >](#)



While lead exposure can affect anyone, children are at highest risk for experiencing its detrimental effects because their bodies are smaller and still developing. Children ages 2 years old and younger are the highest priority for evaluation and testing due to brain development and frequent hand to mouth activity (such as putting toys in their mouth or sucking their thumb that could have picked up lead dust from a source in their immediate living environment). All children ages 6 and under are required to be evaluated for lead exposure risks by their physician and tested if necessary. The Illinois Lead Program recommends all children be evaluated or tested as indicated at ages 12 months and 24 months, and 3, 4,5, and 6 years of age.

[IS MY CHILD AT RISK? SHOULD MY CHILD BE TESTED? TO FIND OUT CLICK HERE >](#)

[ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER? IF SO, CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION. >](#)

Lead Facts

- Pre-1978 housing consisting of lead paint hazards remains the most prevalent source for lead exposure and nearly 60% of Illinois homes were built prior to 1978.
- Main sources of lead:
 - Paint, dust, or contaminated soil in or around the home.
 - Drinking water from lead in the home's plumbing system.
 - Imported items such as foods, medicines, glazed pottery, make up, toys, or jewelry.
 - Other sources of lead exist. please use the [IDPH Childhood Lead Risk Questionnaire](#) to determine if a child should have a blood lead test done.
- Lead in the body has many health effects, especially for young and un-born children.
- Possible health effects of lead:
 - Damage to the brain and nervous system
 - Slowed growth and development
 - Learning and behavioral problems
 - At extremely high levels, coma and death can occur
 - Find a more detailed list of health effects in our publications

Consumer goods and products can be a source of lead exposure. Commonly imported items containing lead are: ayurvedic medicine, folk medicines, cosmetics (such as Sindoor and Kumkum), toys, glazed pottery, spices (such as curry powder and turmeric) or other food items. Even consumer goods produced in the US can be recalled due to lead content. In addition, just because a product says that it was packaged in the US does not mean it was manufactured here and could possibly be a source of lead. To check product recalls please visit:

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Recalls – for non-food consumer goods:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/>

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Recalls – for food products:

<https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts>

Resources

[Licensed Lead Abatement Contractors](#)

[Licensed Lead Risk Assessors and Lead Inspectors](#)

[EPA: Lead](#)

[HUD: Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control](#)

[National Center for Healthy Housing](#)

Laws & Rules

[Lead Poisoning Prevention Act](#)

[Lead Poisoning Prevention Code](#)

[Lead Poisoning Prevention Code \(Printer Friendly\)](#)

Publications

[Keeping Kids Safe](#)

[A Landlord's Guide to Working Safely With Lead](#)

[Get the Lead Out: Activities to Reduce Lead Exposure](#)

[Get the Lead Out: Activities to Reduce Lead Exposure \(Booklet Set-up\)](#)

[Get the Lead Out: Homeowner's Lead-based Paint Abatement Guide](#)

[Get the Lead Out: Homeowner's Lead-based Paint Abatement Guide \(Booklet Set-up\)](#)

[Get the Lead Out: Renovation](#)

[Get the Lead Out: Renovation \(En Español\)](#)

[Hardware Store Warning Poster against Dry Scraping and Sanding](#)

[Hardware Store Poster Warning Poster against Dry Scraping and Sanding \(En Español\)](#)

[Lead Cleaning Checklist](#)

[Lead in Industry: A Guide for Employees](#)

[Physician Testing Handout](#)

[Physician Testing Handout - en Español](#)

[Sources of Childhood Lead Poisoning](#)

[Sources of Childhood Lead Poisoning \(En Español\)](#)