

CHILD CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION



CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION BRANCH /
CALIFORNIA CHILDCARE HEALTH PROGRAM

WHY ARE KIDS AT RISK?



- ❑ Lead becomes dust from peeling and chipping paint.
- ❑ Children explore the environment using their hands and mouths.
- ❑ They spend a lot of time on the floor where sources of lead are found.
- ❑ Children absorb more ingested lead than adults.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD

- ❑ Children are more vulnerable to lead's toxic effects.
- ❑ Lead can limit a child's intellectual & physical development.
- ❑ Anemia and lead poisoning may occur together.



HOW DO I KNOW IF A CHILD IS LEAD POISONED?

- ❑ Most lead poisoned children do not look or act sick.
- ❑ Testing is the ONLY way to know.
- ❑ Blood lead tests should be done at 12 and 24 months for children in publicly funded programs for low-income children (like Medi-Cal, CHDP, and WIC).
 - All other children should be assessed for risk of lead exposure by their health care provider at every well child visit up to age 6.

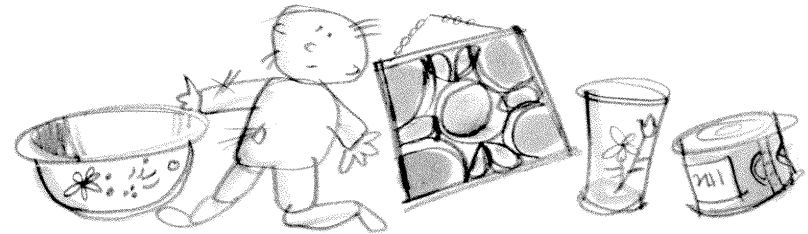
SOURCES OF LEAD

- ❑ Lead-based paint in homes built before 1978
- ❑ Chipping and peeling paint, house dust
- ❑ High friction areas like windows and doors
- ❑ Vinyl mini-blinds
- ❑ Bare dirt



OTHER SOURCES OF LEAD

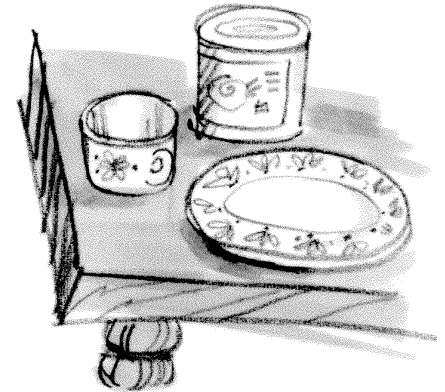
- ❑ Lead brought home on clothes and shoes by persons working in lead related industries



- ❑ Hobbies such as making stained glass (lead solder), hunting or firing ranges (lead bullets), fishing (lead sinkers)

OTHER SOURCES OF LEAD

- ❑ Lead in some foods and brightly-colored spices imported from outside the USA
- ❑ Lead in some home remedies, traditional make-up and jewelry
- ❑ Some handmade or imported pottery, dishes and water crocks
- ❑ Some old painted toys. Old vinyl toys are more likely to have lead
- ❑ Water from wells or running through plumbing that contains lead



REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

□ Wash Toys Regularly

- Toys and pacifiers are frequently mouthed
- Check toys for chipping paint
- Do not use old or imported toys unless you know they are lead-free*
- Check CPSC for toys that have been recalled:

www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/



*Some products labeled “lead free” may still contain lead.

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

AFTER EACH USE

Mouthed toys
Changing tables
Counters used for food
or brushing teeth
Tables used for eating
Dishes and utensils

DAILY OR WHEN SOILED

Toys and hard surfaces
Toilets
Door knobs
Kitchen floors, counters,
and tables
Sinks
Waste cans

WEEKLY

Cubbies
Cribs
Trash cans
Refrigerators
Drinking fountains
Window sills and
baseboards

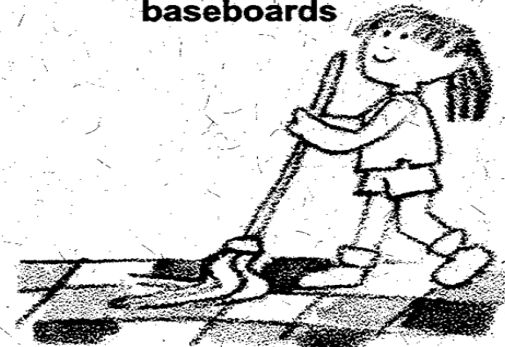


VACUUM/MOP

DAILY

Vacuum all rugs
Damp mop floors

WASH



AT LEAST WEEKLY, PREFERABLY DAILY, AND WHEN SOILED

Mop heads, have a special one just for cleaning up dust if lead is present

Cloth toys
Laundry
Dress-up clothes

SPOT CLEAN

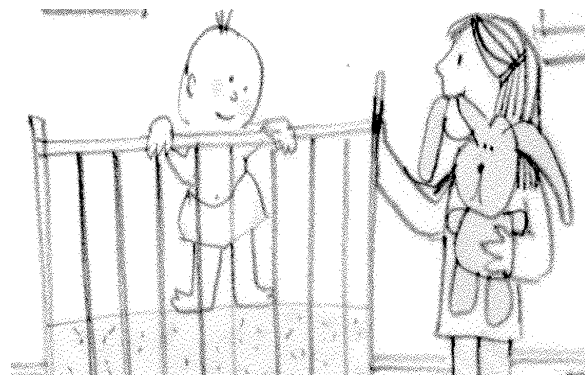
MONTHLY

Walls (Do not use abrasive cleaning products or tools, i.e. sandpaper.)
Carpets (Deep clean every 6 months)

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

Inspect on a Monthly Basis:

- Chipping, peeling paint
- Bare soil
- Moisture, molds, and mildew
- Move cribs and furniture away from possible lead sources



REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

Hand-washing

- Hands can carry germs and lead dust to mouths.
- Wash hands:
 - Before eating and handling food
 - After using the restroom, diapering or handling body fluids
 - After playing outside
 - Before going to bed (especially for thumb suckers)



LEAD AND NUTRITION



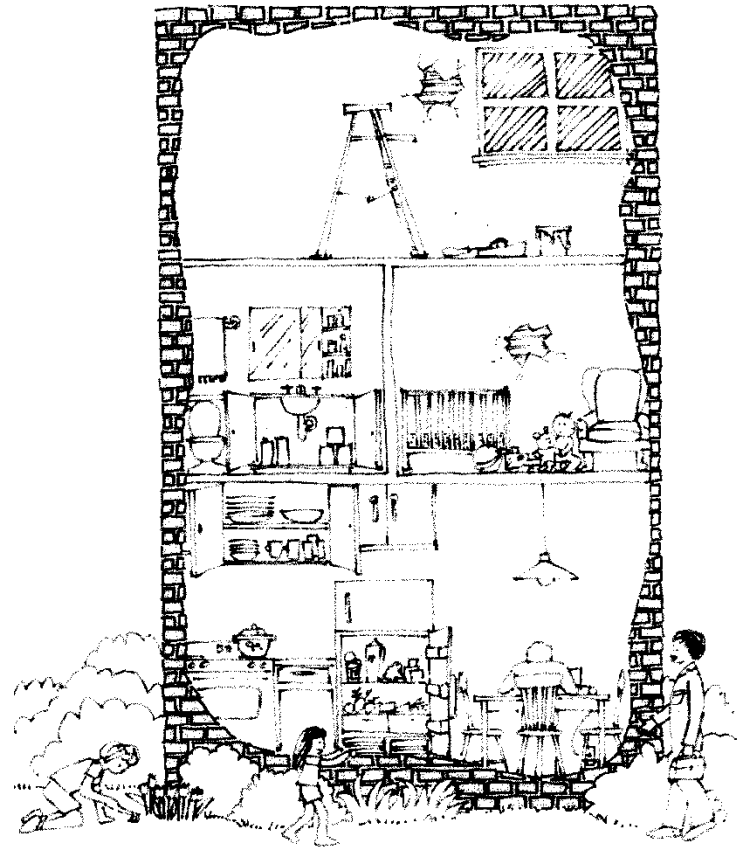
- ❑ Frequent healthy meals and snacks can help prevent the absorption of lead.
- ❑ A full stomach reduces the amount of lead absorbed by the body.
- ❑ Feed children healthy meals and snacks often.

LEAD IN TAP WATER

- ❑ **Most tap water in California does not contain lead**
- ❑ **The only way to know if your tap water contains lead is to have it tested**
 - Call 800-426-4791 or visit www.epa.gov/lead
- ❑ **Steps to reduce potential exposure to lead in tap water**
 - Flush the pipes in your home by running water until it feels coldest (usually at least 30 seconds and up to a few minutes, longer for first use after 6 hours)
 - Use only cold tap water for cooking, drinking and baby formula (if used)

PAINTING, REPAIRING OR REMODELING YOUR CHILD CARE ENVIRONMENT

- There MAY be a risk for contamination if:
 - The facility was built before 1978 and/or
 - The play yard is exposed to heavy automobile traffic and/or
 - It is near an industrial area where lead products have been used or produced.



LEAD TESTING

- Testing your facility's paint and soil
 - Have your facility evaluated by a certified lead inspector
 - Call your local Lead Program for testing information
 - Test kits are available in hardware stores for pottery

RESOURCES:

- ❑ Local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- ❑ CDPH Childhood Lead Poisoning Branch
(510) 620-5600
www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CLPPB
- ❑ California Child Care Health Program
<http://cchp.ucsf.edu>
- ❑ Resource & Referral Consumer Education Line
(800) 542-7793