

Hazard: Lead

Identity of Hazard(s): There are two main sources of lead within dwellings – paint and water pipes. Other sources of lead include soil, particularly around older buildings contaminated by flaking external paintwork, and adjacent to industrial premises using (or previously having used) lead. In addition, there may be residual lead in soil close to busy roads from the exhaust fumes from leaded petrol.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Lead poisoning¹

Health Alert! Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. Children six years old and younger are most susceptible to the effects of lead. In children, the main target for lead toxicity is the nervous system. Even very low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in permanent damage to the brain and nervous system, leading to behavior and learning problems, lower IQ, and hearing problems; slowed growth; and anemia. In rare cases, ingestion of lead can cause seizures, coma and even death.²

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take³

- Children should be tested for lead poisoning at one and two years of age or more often depending on their contact with sources of lead.
 - Wash your child's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys often.
 - Have your home checked for lead hazards. Test the soil your child plays in.
 - Keep floors, window sills and other surfaces dust and dirt free.
 - Take off shoes when entering the house.
 - Talk to your landlord about fixing peeling or chipping paint.
 - Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling or renovating.
 - Learn how to remove lead-based paint safely. Don't use a power sander, open flame torch, heat gun above 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit, dry scraper, or sandpaper on painted surfaces that may contain lead.
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Local Resources for Detroit Residents:

- Call your local health department or the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (517) 335-8885 if you have questions about getting your child tested for lead poisoning.
- Lead paint testing kits can be purchased at Walmart or Home Depot. An EPA recognized testing kit can be purchased at <https://www.ezellsupply.com/p/10189950EA/D-Lead-Paint-Test-Kit/> or call (800) 494-3552.
- CLEARCorps Detroit (for lead abatement): (313) 924-4000
- Detroit Planning and Development Department (for lead abatement): (313) 224-6380

¹http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=operating_guidance_hhrs_v1.pdf

²<http://www.epa.gov/lead/>

³http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,4612,7-132-2940_2955_2983-19536--,00.html