

## **ABOUT LEAD**

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), childhood lead poisoning remains a major environmental health problem in the U.S. Even children who appear healthy can have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies. Lead may cause a range of health effects, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. Children 6 years old and under are most at risk, because children often play in or near areas that have lead dust. The most important thing to keep in mind about lead, is that lead poisoning is preventable.

### **What is Lead?**

Lead is a highly toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around our homes. Lead is most commonly found in lead based paint. Although all paint contain a small trace of lead, lead does not become a hazard until paint begins to chip, crackle, peel, or otherwise disintegrate. When lead begins to disintegrate, or fall apart, it creates a dust which then may cover other surfaces such as windows, floors, and soil. If these areas are contaminated with lead, children and adults are more likely to develop lead poisoning if one comes in contact with lead.

There are ways to protect yourself and your family from lead poisoning including the removal of lead based paint and household items containing lead. For more information on what you can do to prevent lead poisoning, please click on any of the following links.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <http://www.epa.gov>  
Click on "lead"

California Department of Health Services (DHS): <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/html/clppb.html>

The National Safety Council (NSC): <http://www.nsc.org/issues/lead/>

---