

A young child with dark hair is shown from the side, reaching up to peel a piece of white paint from a wall. The paint is chipped and peeling, revealing a greyish surface underneath. The child is wearing an orange shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Lead Poisoning

What is Lead Poisoning?

Lead poisoning occurs when a person has too much lead in their body. Toddlers and young children are at greater risk than adults.

Where is Lead Found?

There are many ways a person could be exposed to lead.

- Often, exposure occurs when a child is in contact with lead-based paint or lead dust found in homes built before 1978.
- Lead-based paint is unsafe if it peels, chips, or cracks, or if dust is created during home renovations.
- Soil around older homes and buildings can be contaminated.
- Drinking water from lead soldered pipes, faucets, and fixtures in older homes.
- A person who works with lead in their job or hobby could be exposed to lead, and can unknowingly bring lead into their home on their clothing or shoes.
- Lead can be found in traditional medicine and cosmetics such as greta, azarcon, pay-loo-ah, and kohl.

Why Should I Be Concerned?

Lead is highly toxic and can cause damage to vital organs within the body. Even small amounts of lead can be harmful to children.

1-800-222-1222



What are the Symptoms of Lead Poisoning?

- Lead poisoning can cause headaches, stomachaches, developmental delays, learning difficulties, and more. Some children with lead poisoning are easily excited, have problems paying attention, or are more tired than usual. Most children with lead poisoning do not show any signs of illness.
- A blood test is the only way to know if a person has lead poisoning.

How is Lead Poisoning Prevented?

If you live in or frequently visit homes built before 1978:

- Check for paint that may be chipping or peeling.
- Clean high-risk areas, including windowsills and floors, to remove paint chips or lead dust.
- Wash children's hands often, especially before they eat.
- Keep play areas clean and wash toys, blankets, and pacifiers often.

For more information, visit our website or scan the QR code below.

