

Lead Poisoning

- Lead poisons people. It is especially bad for children. If lead gets into a child's body, it could cause brain damage, kidney damage, hearing loss, growth problems, anemia, or behavior problems.
- Lead can be found anywhere. It is most commonly found in paint, dust, soil and water. Some Asian and Hispanic folk medicines for stomach upset also have lead.



What Causes Lead Poisoning In Children?

The most common cause is lead-based paint. If floors have dust from old painted walls, or paint chips, a baby could breathe in lead dust, or suck on lead-dusted hands or toys. Some toddlers eat paint chips or chew on lead-painted window sills and stair rails.

What Are The Symptoms Of Lead Poisoning In Children?

They can include fatigue, crankiness and stomachaches, but there usually aren't any signs. A blood lead test is the only sure way to tell.

How Is A Lead Test Done?

A small amount of blood is taken from a finger prick or vein and tested for lead. Blood can be drawn at a doctor's office, hospital, clinic, or lab. If you don't know where to bring your child for testing, call your local health department.

Which Children Should Be Tested?

All children six months to six years should be screened regularly. Children should be tested by their first birthday and again when they are two. Preschool and child care programs will be looking for proof that the child has been tested.

Call your doctor or local health department to learn more about lead poisoning prevention.

SENECA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM: (315) 539-1920

Remember, GET AHEAD OF LEAD! Avoiding lead is good for you and good for your children. Source: New York State Department of Health

Steps To Prevent Lead Poisoning



- Keep children away from peeling paint and broken plaster.
- Damp mop floors and damp wipe surfaces twice a week to reduce lead dust.
- Wash your child's hands often, to rinse off any lead dust or dirt.
- Wash your child's toys often, especially teething toys.
- Use cold tap water - not hot - for infant formula or cooking. Let the cold water tap run for at least a minute before using, to flush lead picked up from pipes.
- Store food from open cans in glass or plastic containers. (Some cans are made with lead solder.)
- Use lead-free dishes. Don't use chipped or cracked dishes to store or serve food.
- Some crafts call for the use of paints, glazes and solder many of these have lead.
- Wash work clothes separately. People who work at construction, plumbing, painting, auto repair and certain other jobs can be exposed to lead. Shower and change into fresh clothes and shoes before coming home.
- Keep children and pregnant women away from remodeling and renovation sites. Old paint can have lead in it.
- Call your local health department for information about professionals who handle lead-based paint problems.