



How might my child be exposed to lead?

For many years, lead was used to make many everyday items — items that may still be around today. So it can be difficult to know how to avoid this dangerous material. In addition, children younger than 6 are more likely to be exposed to lead because of how they spend their days: putting things in their mouths, crawling, and playing on or touching household surfaces.

Your family may have a higher risk for lead poisoning if you:

- Live in a home built before 1978
- Work with lead or have hobbies that include lead in your materials
- Use imported goods, such as cosmetics, traditional medicines, cookware, food, candy, and spices



Protect your child with 2 lead tests by their 2nd birthday

Lead is extra dangerous for kids because children's bodies absorb more lead than adults' — up to five times as much! And they're at higher risk because their brains and bodies are still developing. But you can keep your child safer by making sure they get these important tests.

Ask your child's doctor about lead testing at your next appointment. Learn more at: dhs.wi.gov/2by2



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

You can't always spot the

LEAD

around your child.

But you can get them tested for it.



Talk to your child's doctor about how early testing can be part of your family's plan to prevent the impact of lead poisoning.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES



2^B2^Y2 Get 2 lead tests by their 2nd birthday

Lead poisoning can affect your child right away, often before you can see warning signs. That's why it's so important to get 2 lead tests before your child turns 2, so you and your doctor can reduce any long-term effects.

- Doctors across Wisconsin want to help parents lower any levels of lead exposure.
- If your child *has* been exposed to lead, there are ways to find and fix the sources.

Why is lead dangerous?

Lead is a natural metal that was once used in household items as well as paint, gasoline, and water pipes. Using lead is no longer allowed, but it still might be found in older homes or items from other countries. When you are exposed to lead, it can damage the brain, organs, and bones. And even a small amount can be harmful to a child.

What if I don't notice anything different about my child?

Lead poisoning can cause changes inside your child's body that you might not be able to see right away.

What is the test?

The test is usually a fast, simple pinprick, and can be done during your child's annual exams at 1 year and at 2 years of age. Your local health department or WIC clinic may also have lead testing services.

What happens if my child does have lead in their blood?

You can create a plan with your child's doctor to lower the amount of lead in their blood, including medication that can remove lead from their body.

If my child has been exposed, what do we do next?

Your child's health care provider will help you find out about ways to address lead, including working with the health department to reduce your family's risk.

