

3 ways to protect your child from lead poisoning

Lead was once used to make many items as well as building materials like pipes and paint. That means that today, lead can still be hiding out in many places you wouldn't expect it — so it can be difficult to know how to keep your child away from it. You can't tell if items have lead by looking at or tasting them — and products may still contain lead even if it's not listed on their label. Here are three top tips to prevent lead poisoning and keep your child safer.



1 Prevent lead in your home

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Flaking house paint and water pipes are the most common places lead is found, mostly in older homes. Lead can also travel home on hands, clothes, or shoes if you've been around items or materials that had lead in them. If you live in an older home, or if your child regularly visits an older home, be sure to have peeling or cracking paint repaired by a professional lead contractor, only use cold tap water for cooking, don't wear shoes inside the home, and wash your and your child's hands frequently.

2 Be aware of lead from unexpected sources

2

While there are regulations that control lead use in the U.S., other countries might have different rules. Check for consumer product warnings on household items before you share them with friends and family. If you work in an environment that includes lead exposure (for example, if you work with batteries or soldering, or do home remodeling), watch out for dust that might be on your clothes or tools, and clean it off before you go home.

3 Get your child tested 2 times before their 2nd birthday

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Lead poisoning doesn't cause symptoms right away. The only way you can know for sure if your child has been exposed is to have them tested. It's usually a simple pinprick that could make a big difference in their long-term health.

2BY2

Wisconsin consistently ranks in the top 10 states for children with lead poisoning — and doctors across the state want to change that. Talk to your child's doctor and learn more at dhs.wi.gov/2by2



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