

Lead in Dust

KIDS NEED LEAD SAFE HOMES

Lead-based paint was used in homes as recently as 1978. It was commonly used before 1960. As paint ages it turns into a fine powder that is high in lead. The powder becomes part of the house dust indoors and the dirt outdoors. Sanding, cutting or scraping surfaces can cause the soil around the house to be high in lead.

WHY IT CAUSES PROBLEMS

Lead dust and dirt gets on toys, pacifiers, bottles and children's hands. Children put their hands in their mouths. The lead gets into their blood stream. When it does, the result is lead poisoning and that can cause learning and behavior problems.

TO REDUCE HOUSE DUST

- ⇒ Follow these cleaning instructions when you first open the windows in the spring.
 1. Carefully wipe down the window channel and window wells. Use paper towels and a cleaning solution of 2 tablespoons of TSP, Spic and Span, or powdered dishwasher soap with at least 5% phosphates content in one gallon of hot water.
 2. Wear rubber gloves to keep the soap from hurting your skin.
 3. Rinse with clean water.
- ⇒ Damp mop floor and damp dust window sills frequently. The more often the windows are opened and closed, the more often this will need done.
- ⇒ Avoid vacuuming because it stirs up the lead dust. If you do vacuum, do it before you damp clean.

TO REDUCE YOUR CHILD'S EXPOSURE FROM LEAD IN SOIL

- ⇒ Cover bare soil with plants or mulch to keep children from playing in it.
- ⇒ Plant gardens at least 6 feet away from buildings and roads.
- ⇒ Hose down dusty, dirty driveways, sidewalks and porches often.
- ⇒ Remove dirty shoes before going inside.
- ⇒ If you work in construction or with other sources of lead, change your clothes before coming home and wash these clothes separately.
- ⇒ Place door mats outside of every entrance to keep the lead outside.

**Lead
Safe
Homes**

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