Lead Poisoning Prevention

KIDS NEED LEAD SAFE HOMES

If your home was built before 1978, it may contain lead based paint. Lead becomes a problem when the paint chips, flakes, wears away or powders with age. Lead is also released when old paint is scraped, sanded, sawed or otherwise disturbed. Lead from these sources gets into the house dust and soil near the house.

WHY LEAD PAINT IS A PROBLEM

Even a small amount of lead is dangerous, especially for unborn babies and children under six years of age. A smaller amount of lead is needed to harm children because they are growing and they put fingers and other things into their mouths. You can help protect your child against lead poisoning.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

⇒ Test paint in your home for lead. Do-it-yourself kits are available at hardware stores or department stores. Keep in mind that these tests only check for lead on the surface. If you are planning to remodel, you need information about the paint deeper down. Contact your health department or housing agency for more information.

⇒ Most children younger than six should have their blood tested for lead. This is especially true if they spend time in buildings built before 1960.

⇒ Windows, doors, stairs and porches are the most likely places to have deteriorating paint. These areas should be smooth and easy to clean. Damp mop or dust using paper towels.

⇒ Do not let children play in bare soil near buildings. Plant or mulch to keep the soil covered. Give them safe, clean places to play.

⇒ Keep children away from chipping or peeling paint. Frequently wash their hands, toys, pacifiers, and other things that they put in their mouths.

Lead Safe Homes

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