

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Do You Know That Lead Poisoning IS Preventable?

Overview and Prevention

Has your child been tested for lead poisoning?

Childhood Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning can slow down the growth and development of the brain and make it hard to learn and pay attention. Children under the age of six are at higher risk due to their frequent hand-to-mouth behavior. A healthy diet rich in calcium, iron, protein and vitamin C can help protect a child from lead poisoning by lowering the absorption of lead in the body.

Lead poisoned children may not always act sick. The only way to know if your child has a high blood lead level is through a blood test. You should check with your child's doctor if you feel your child may be at risk.

Prevention

Follow these steps to reduce your child's risk of lead poisoning:

1. Damp mop all hard surfaces to remove lead dust.
2. Wash children's toys and hands often.
3. Adults who work with lead should shower and change clothes before interacting with children.
4. Do not use handmade or imported pottery and highly decorated dishes for cooking and storing food.
5. Keep children away from older buildings that are being painted or remodeled.
6. Cover soil around your home with grass, plants, rocks or pavement.
7. Remove chipping and flaking paint ONLY in a safe manner by a lead certified contractor.

Resources

California Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch (CLPPB):

Phone: (510) 620-5600 **Fax:** (510) 620-5656

Website: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CLPPB/Pages/default.aspx>

Environmental Protection Agency:

Phone: (202) 566-0500

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/>

Environmental Health Department-County of Santa Clara:

Phone: (408) 918-3400

Website: <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/deh/Pages/DEH.aspx>