

WATCH OUT FOR LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING!

If a home was built before 1978, it may contain lead-based paint. About three out of every four pre-1978 buildings have lead-based paint.

YOU NEED TO READ THIS NOTICE ABOUT LEAD

WHAT IS LEAD POISONING?

Lead poisoning means having a high concentration of lead in the body.

Lead can:

- Cause major health problems especially in children under 7 years old.
- Damage a child's brain, nervous system, kidneys, hearing, or coordination.
- Affect learning.
- Cause behavior problems, blindness, and even death.
- Cause problems in pregnancy and affect a baby's normal development.

WHO GETS LEAD POISONING?

Anyone can get it, but *children under 7* are at the greatest risk, because their bodies are not fully grown and are easily damaged. *Women of childbearing age* are also at risk, because lead poisoning can cause miscarriages, premature births, and the poison can be passed on to their unborn babies.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

The lead hazards that children most often touch are *lead dust, leaded soil, loose chips, and chewable surfaces with lead-based paint*. A child may be harmed when it puts into its mouth toys, pacifiers, or hands that have leaded soil or lead dust on them. Lead also comes from:

- Moving parts of windows and doors that can make lead dust or chips.
- Lead-based paint on surfaces in the home.
- Soil that has been contaminated with lead.
- Drinking water (pipes and solder.)
- Parents who bring lead dust home from work on skin, clothes, and hair.
- Colored newsprint and car batteries.
- Highly glazed pottery and cookware from other countries.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS AFFECTED?

Is your child:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| * Cranky? | * Unable to concentrate? |
| * Vomiting? | * Hyperactive? |
| * Tired? | * Complaining of stomach aches or headaches? |
| * Unwilling to eat or play? | * Playing with children who have these symptoms? |

These *can* be signs of lead poisoning. However, your children might be poisoned and not show any signs. Only your clinic or doctor can test to be sure.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

If you suspect your child has been exposed to lead, make an appointment with your doctor or clinic or call the City Health Department at (562) 570-4000. If you think your unit might have sources of lead poisoning, call the Housing Authority Inspection Section at (562) 570-6985 and request an inspection.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of this notice.

Signature of Head of Household

Date