Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home

2016

If you live in an area where the soil contains lead, the dust in your house may also contain lead. Lead in soil can be tracked into your house on shoes, clothes, and pet fur and paws, and by other ways. Children are likely to swallow house dust and dirt that may contain lead while they are playing on the floor. Lead can build up in children's bodies and can cause lead poisoning.

To protect your family from lead in your home follow these simple steps:

✔ Keep your child's hands and toys clean.

- Wash your child's hands after the child plays outside, before they eat, and at bedtime.
- Wash your child's toys, bottles and pacifiers often.
- Do not let your children put dirty hands, toys, or other things that might have dust on them in their mouths.

✔ Clean your house often to remove lead tracked into the house from soil, and lead in house dust.

- Clean your home weekly to keep it as dust free as possible. Clean floors, window sills, doorframes, and baseboards with soap and water.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter.

✔ Use washable rugs at all doors going into the house. Take shoes off at the door.

- Put washable doormats or rugs at all entries to your home. Have everyone wipe their feet before entering the house, so that lead-containing soil and dust will not be tracked into the house.
- Wash doormats, rugs and cleaning rags often. Wash these items separately from other family laundry. Wash rags before reusing.
- Leave shoes at the door so lead in soil will not be tracked in the house.

✔ Before you remodel or repair your house take "lead-safe" worker training to learn how to lower the amount of lead dust made while working. Even better, consider hiring a professional trained in lead-safe work practices.

Questions about lead?
Call your health care provider or the St. Francois County Health Center at (573) 431-1947 to have your child's blood tested for lead. Blood lead level tests cost $15.00.

Health and Risk Assessment Unit
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
(573) 751-6102
or
1-866-628-9891

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Get your child tested for lead poisoning today!

Most lead poisoned children do not act or look sick.

The only way to know if your child has lead poisoning is to have a blood lead test.

Children 6 years and younger are more likely to have lead poisoning.

Call your doctor or clinic today to get your child tested.