



Lead Fact Sheet

2026

WHAT IS LEAD?

Lead is a metal that was commonly used in paint, plumbing pipes and some toys before knowing how harmful it was. It's a poison that can harm your health, especially in children.

WHY IS LEAD DANGEROUS?

- Lead is toxic and can damage many parts of your body including the brain, kidneys and nervous system.
- Children are most at risk because their brains are still growing, and even small amounts can cause learning and behavior problems.

WHERE CAN LEAD BE FOUND?

Lead may be found in old paint, dust, soil, plumbing pipes and some imported toys or jewelry. Homes built before 1978 are more likely to have lead paint.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY FAMILY?

To reduce lead exposure, wash hands and toys regularly, avoid letting children eat paint chips or dirt, use cold tap water for cooking and drinking, repair chipping/peeling paint and plumbing issues safely by a certified professional.

Website for DIYers : <https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-safe-renovations-diys>

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

1. Contact your child's doctor to get a blood test.
2. Keep your child away from peeling and chipping paint.
3. Use disposable wet towels and a disposable wet mop to clean floors, windowsills and surfaces. DO NOT dry sweep or vacuum paint dust unless if using a HEPA vacuum.
4. Wash hands and toys often!
5. Eat iron, calcium and vitamin C rich food to reduce lead absorption into body.

NEED HELP? CONTACT DCHD

Delaware County Health Department

- **Phone:** 484-276-2100
- **Email:**
DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us
- **Health Department Website:**
delcopa.gov/health
- **Lead Program Website:**
delcopa.gov/health/leadfree123