

Bureau for Public Health Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health West Virginia Childhood Poisoning Prevention Project

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM LEAD

Where does lead come from?



Peeling paint and dust



Soil



Drinking water/pipes and plumbing





Foods and toys



Industrial sites

How does lead affect children?



Damage to brain, kidneys, and nervous system

Slow growth and development



Learning and behavior problems

Hearing and speech problems

Headaches and trouble sleeping



Risk of miscarriage or stillbirth

Low-birth weight baby

Who is at risk?



Those living in homes built before 1978



Younger children face the greatest risk





Having a job or hobby that involves lead



Living near leadprocessing plants

What are steps to take to reduce exposure?



Clean home regularly

Renovate safely





Wash hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often



Have child tested for lead



Children's meals high in calcium, iron, and vitamin C



Run faucet on cold for 1-2 minutes if water hasn't been used for 6 hours or more



Remove shoes before entering the house



Use cold water for cooking and drinking



Read labels on hobby and craft materials



Watch what goes in the child's mouth

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304-558-5388

Toll free: 1-800-642-8522



