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Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead Poisoning is a danger for every baby and child.

If you are pregnant, protect yourself and your baby from lead poisoning.

What Is Lead?

Lead is a heavy metal. It was used in many materials and products before the risk to young children was known. Certain products such as paints used in older houses before 1978, lead solder used in plumbing, and leaded gasoline were used before their harmful health effects were recognized. Although laws now prevent lead from being used in many products, there can still be lead hazards in and around many homes.

Children 6 years old and under are most at risk because their bodies are still developing. Lead can also harm babies before they are born. A young child's exposure to lead can cause learning and behavioral problems and possibly damage their brains, kidneys, and other organs.

Where Does Lead Come From?

The main way most young children are exposed to harmful levels of lead is through contact with lead contaminated paint and dust in older homes.

Other sources of lead are:

- Soil
- Imported candies or foods
- The workplace and hobbies
- Imported food in cans. Lead-glazed ceramics, china, leaded crystal glassware .
- Metal Jewelry. Mini-blinds
- Folk medicines, ayurvedics and cosmetics. Other common sources of lead (car batteries, radiators, some inks,

etc.)

What can you do to protect your child?

Be aware of ways you can be exposed to lead and prevent exposure.

If you live in a home built before 1978:

- Wash away lead dust
- Wash children's hands or toys often – even if they don't look dirty – to remove lead dust
- Mop floors often and use damp cloths to clean windowsills
- Ask your doctor about having a blood lead screening test

[EPA Certified Renovation Repair and Painting Contractors.](#)

[EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule \[PDF*\]](#)

[The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right \[PDF*\]](#)

For more information, contact the **Albany County Department of Health** at **(518) 447-4615** or visit the [NYS Department of Health lead information web page.](#)

Our Lead Poisoning Prevention Service provides the following services:

- Testing for lead poisoning for uninsured children in Albany County, ages 6 months through 5 years.
- Nursing visits to assist with education and treatment.
- Home inspections to find and correct lead problems.

Special Programs for Women, Infants and Children
(518) 447-4615

Resources:

[Lead Safe Housing in Albany County](#)

[EPA Certified Renovation Repair and Painting Contractors external website](#)

[EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule \[PDF*\]](#)

[The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right \[PDF*\]](#)

[EPA Certified Renovation firms \[PDF*\]](#)

“For possible grant funding for homeowners and landlords with Documented Lead Based Paint Hazards. Go to the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal at www.nysdhcr.gov”

For more information on lead testing your child or your home, please call (518) 447-4620



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