

Lead Testing

FACTS

- Nearly half a million children living in the United States have blood lead levels high enough to cause irreversible damage to their health
- More than 20,000 children in Michigan are estimated to have lead poisoning that has not been detected.
- The most common source of lead exposure for children is lead-based paint/dust and soil that are contaminated by it, especially in older homes and buildings.
- Lead poisoning is usually caused by months or years of exposure to small amounts of lead in the home, work, or day care environment. It can also happen very quickly with exposure to high concentrations.
- Lead can affect almost every organ and system in the body. The most sensitive is the central nervous system, particularly in children. Lead also damages kidneys and the reproductive system.
- Lead poisoning effects are the same whether lead is breathed or swallowed.

Safe Families = Safe Homes Month

RESOURCES:

Washtenaw County Planning & Environment

734-222-3800

<http://environmentalhealth.ewashtenaw.org>

Michigan Department of Community Health

Childhood Lead Prevention Project

517-335-8885

<http://www.michigan.gov/leadsafe>

Michigan Department of Community Health

Michigan Blood Lead Testing Program

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_2983-19596--,00.html

Michigan Department of Community Health

Childhood Lead Poisoning: High Risk ZIP Codes

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ziplist_11222_7.pdf

Michigan Department of Community Health

Lead Hazard Remediation Program

517-335-9390



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Lead is toxic to humans, and people should avoid all exposures to it.
- Lead has been removed from many products but it is still found in ammunition, some batteries, and medical and scientific equipment. Since it does not decompose, lead from past products such as old paints remains in the environment.
- People who lived, worked, or regularly visited a home (including child care) built before 1950 or built before 1978 while it was being renovated are at risk of lead poisoning.
- All children should be screened for lead poisoning at one and two years of age or more often depending on their contact with sources of lead.
- Most lead-poisoned children have no symptoms; they may seem healthy or have any of the following signs: Learning and behavior problems, tiredness, headaches, hearing problems, weight loss, hyperactivity, and irritability.
- Lead poisoning can be easily detected by a simple finger-stick blood test.

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN WASHTENAW COUNTY:

- **Lead Paint Chip Sampling:** Washtenaw County Planning & Environment can process paint chip samples from the general public for lead testing. For more information contact Planning & Environment.
- **Drinking Water Testing:** Testing services for lead in drinking water are available. Please call Planning & Environment at 734-222-3800 before sampling your water. You will need to obtain a special sampling bottle, and will need to follow specific procedures for each item sampled.
- **Lead Education & Investigation:** Planning & Environment provides lead education to the public, and investigates referrals of lead poisoning. Investigations involve testing paint and other items in the home to determine if any of those items contain lead. If lead is present, recommendations for abatement are provided and children are referred for medical treatment if necessary.
- **HEPA Vacuum:** Planning & Environment has a HEPA vacuum available for public use. Contact our office at 734-222-3827 for information regarding use of the HEPA vacuum.