

**Lead Poisoning is the
number one
environmental hazard
for children today.**

Is your child at risk?



**PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM
LEAD POISONING**

**HAVE YOUR DOCTOR
TEST YOUR CHILDREN
ON THEIR FIRST AND
SECOND BIRTHDAY**

For more information, contact:

**Lead-Safe Virginia Program
Virginia Department of Health
1500 East Main St., Room 138
P.O. Box 2448
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2448
(877) 668-7987
www.vahealth.org/leadsafe**

**Before your baby
begins to walk,
learn about
lead poisoning.**



Lead-Safe Virginia Program

VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment
www.vdh.state.va.us

Children can be poisoned from lead found in paint, dust, soil and water in and around many homes. In the United States, there are over 890,000 children (ages 1 to 5) with high levels of lead. In Virginia, nearly 500 children are reported poisoned each year.



Do you, or does your child...

Live in or visit a house or child care facility...

- built before 1950?
- built before 1978 and renovated within the past 6 months?
- where someone has an elevated blood-lead level?
- where an adult's job or hobby involves exposure to lead?

- located in a high-risk zip code (see www.vahealth.org/leadsafe)
- near an active lead smelter or battery recycling plant?

Are you, or your child...

- eligible for Medicaid or WIC?



If you answered yes to one or more, your baby may be at risk for lead poisoning!

Why are children more vulnerable to lead poisoning?

- their bodies absorb more lead than adults
- they crawl on the floor
- they put things in their mouth

What can lead poisoning do to a child?

Lead poisoning causes...

- language delays and hearing damage
- a decrease in bone growth and coordination
- learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders
- aggressive and antisocial behavior

What are the symptoms of lead poisoning?

- nausea, irritability, headaches
- but, for the majority of children, no symptoms are seen

How can I protect my child?

If you live in pre-1978 housing...

- wet mop or wet dust floors, windowsills, and other dusty surfaces
- keep child away from peeling paint
- wash your child's hands often
- clean toys and other things children put in their mouths
- wash hands before preparing food
- prepare nutritious meals that are high in calcium and iron and low in fat to prevent the body from storing lead

How do I know if my child has lead poisoning?

- the only way to know for sure is to have your child screened by a healthcare provider.
- a lead test is recommended for all children at 12 and 24 months.

