HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOME FOR YOUR CHILD?
Lead (Pb) is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth’s crust. It is a heavy metal that is bluish-grey in color when freshly cut. Its chemical symbol is Pb taken from the Latin word *plumbum*.

15-18 MILLION CHILDREN AROUND THE GLOBE SUFFER FROM PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE DUE TO LEAD POISONING.
SOURCES OF LEAD IN AND AROUND YOUR HOME

One of the leading sources of lead in and around your home is household decorative paint.
**Why is lead added to paints?**

1. Easy and economic way of making colours look brighter
2. Helps the paint dry faster.
3. Paints containing lead last longer on walls, wood and metals.

*With advancement in technology, major paint manufacturers around the globe are now achieving all of the above, without the use of lead in paints.*

**Lead exposure causes**

1. delayed mental and physical development
2. learning deficiencies
3. hearing problems
4. lower IQ
5. behavior problems
6. anemia
7. kidney damage
8. decreased coordination
9. shortened attention span
10. delayed puberty
Children are exposed to lead by:

- eating/chewing on paint chips that peel off from painted surfaces especially in ill maintained play areas and houses
- licking painted surfaces like walls, doors and windows
- lead paint on the walls contribute to dust and soil contamination. Children can ingest lead due to frequent hand-to-mouth activity while playing on dusty floors and in the playgrounds
- Significant exposure can also occur from lead paint when smaller particles become airborne during sanding and scraping while repainting and remodeling

Children below the age of 6 are particularly susceptible to the above.

Enamel paints may have high levels of lead content.
WHERE DOES LEAD GO ONCE IN THE BODY?

- Lead is absorbed into the bloodstream rapidly.
- From there it travels to the ‘soft tissues’, affecting the kidney, lungs, brain, muscles and heart.
- After some time, most of the lead is stored in the bones, teeth and hair, affecting normal functioning of the human body for life.
- The effects of lead exposure are permanent and cannot be reversed.

IMPACTS OF LEAD

- Lead exposure damages the brain and central nervous system to cause coma, convulsions and even death.
- 99% children affected by high exposure to lead live in low and middle income countries.

BRIGHT COLOUR PAINTS TEND TO HAVE MORE LEAD THAN WHITES.

White < Black < Blue < Red < Green < Orange < Yellow

Less < More
By 1935, many European countries banned the use of lead in household paints.

1909  France, Belgium, and Austria
1922  Tunisia and Greece
1924  Czechoslovakia
1926  Great Britain, Sweden, and Belgium
1927  Poland
1931  Spain and Yugoslavia
1934  Cuba

United States of America banned use of lead in paints in 1971
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