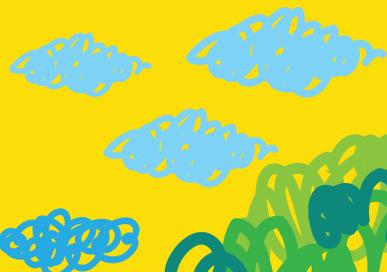




Toxics Link
for a toxics-free world



a toxics-free future



HOW SAFE
IS YOUR HOME
FOR YOUR CHILD



15-18

MILLION CHILDREN

AROUND THE GLOBE SUFFER FROM
PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE DUE TO
LEAD POISONING.

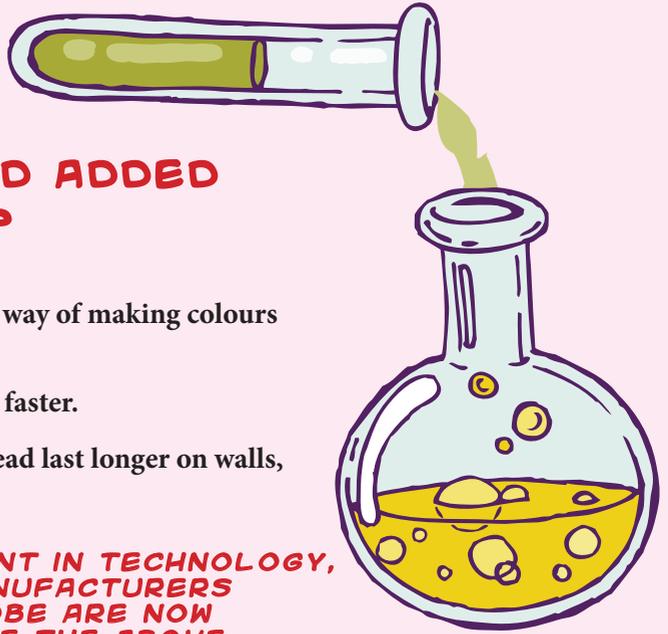


Lead (Pb) is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. It is a heavy metal that is bluish-grey in color when freshly cut. Its chemical symbol is Pb taken from the Latin word *plumbum*.

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



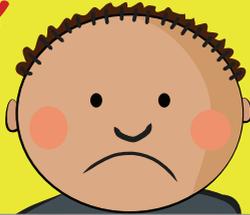
8. decreased coordination

9. shortened attention span



10. delayed puberty

CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO LEAD BY



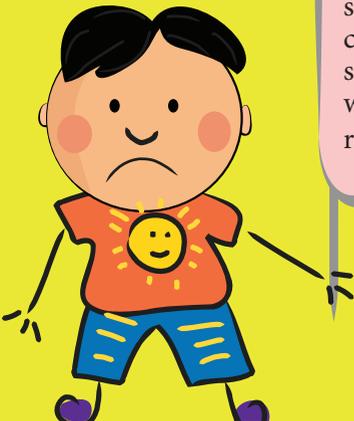
eating/chewing on paint chips that peel off from painted surfaces especially in ill maintained play areas and houses



licking painted surfaces like walls, doors and windows

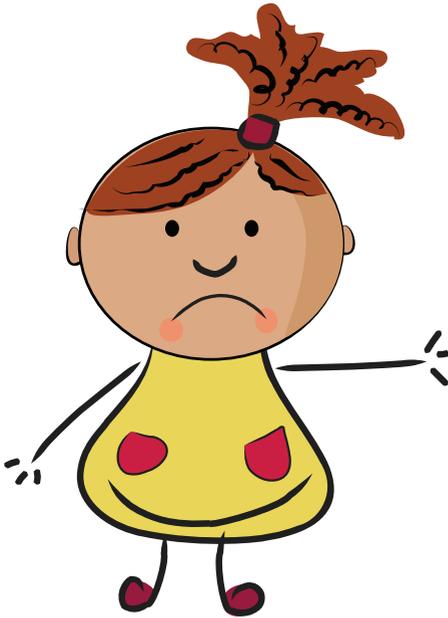
lead paint on the walls contribute to dust and soil contamination. Children can ingest lead due to frequent hand-to-mouth activity while playing on dusty floors and in the playgrounds

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.



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

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.

BRIGHT COLOUR PAINTS TEND TO HAVE MORE LEAD THAN WHITES.

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



Less

More

BUT IT IS PREVENTABLE

- A few paint companies – both big and small - claim and advertise that their paints are “lead safe”
- While buying paints, look out for product information on the cans. A paint that conforms to global “lead safe” standards, should declare “less than 90 ppm (parts per million) Lead content”.
- Make sure that the public buildings and parks use lead safe paints.
- Redecorating your home can be toxic since the old paint coming off the wall can contain lead. Keep your nose and mouth covered with a clean cloth to avoid inhaling any dust.



REGULATION FOR LEAD IN WHITE PIGMENTS



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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