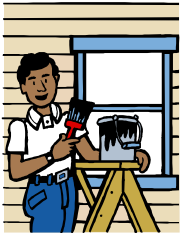


Where Does Lead Come From?

National studies find the most common source of lead poisoning is **DUST** from lead paint. Lead paint is most common in houses built before 1950.



In Maine, most cases of lead poisoning are found in houses that were **recently remodeled**.

Other possible sources of lead poisoning are:

- ❖ Old painted furniture
- ❖ Soil – near old buildings
- ❖ Car batteries
- ❖ Costume jewelry
- ❖ Marine paint
- ❖ Lead bullets, shot and sinkers
- ❖ Some pottery and toys from other countries

Do You Have More Questions?

- ❖ For questions about **health concerns and lead safety in your home**, call the Lead Program at 287-4311
Toll Free 1(866) 292-3474
TTY 1(800) 606-0215.
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/eohp/>
- ❖ For questions about **working safely around lead at home or at your job** call the Department of Environmental Protection at 1(800) 452-1942.
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/lead/>
- ❖ For questions about **money to pay for lead inspections or to fix up your home**, call your local CAA Agency or the Maine State Housing Authority at 1(800) 452-4668.
<http://www.mainehousing.org/homerepair.html>



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

Brenda M. Harvey
Acting Commissioner

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Keep Your Children Safe From Lead



*Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program
Maine Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention*

LEAD HURTS CHILDREN

**Every year about 300 kids
are found to be lead poisoned
in Maine.**

Most lead poisoned children don't look or act sick, but over time, even small amounts of lead can hurt a child's rapidly growing brain.

Lead can cause:

learning delays,
behavioral problems, or
lower intelligence.

How lead effects children depends on:

how much lead is in their bodies,
how long they were exposed, and
how each child reacts to the lead.



Children less than 3 years old are more likely to be lead poisoned.

Young children crawl on the floor and put their hands and toys in their mouths. Their bodies absorb lead faster than adults and have fast growing brains that can be easily damaged.

TEST YOUR CHILD FOR LEAD

Check all that are true:

- Our family recently moved into an older building.
- The building where I live was built before 1950.
- My house was built before 1978 and we have been doing home renovations.
- My child has a friend or sibling who has been lead poisoned.
- I work with old paint or car parts.

If you checked any box, **ask your doctor** about a blood test for your child.

A MOTHER'S STORY

Tiffany Brown:

“I found out from my doctor that my daughter had too much lead in her blood. I was shocked and scared. My doctor said to call the Lead Program. I did, and they told me easy ways to keep lead away from my child. I think the lead might be from old paint on the windowsills. I moved the couch in front of the window to block it from Jamie, until I get the landlord to repaint it. Once a week I clean the sills with water & detergent. Your situation may be different. Call the Lead Program; they can help you solve your lead problem.”

KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE

If you live in an older home:

- Make sure the paint on windows and doors is in good condition.
- Test for lead before you repaint or repair your home.
- Clean often using wet mops and rags to wipe up lead dust.
- Wash your baby's hands before eating, before naps and bedtime.

If you work with lead at your job:

- Wash your clothes separately.
- Wash up or shower before touching your child.

If you would like to talk to a **lead specialist** to learn more about lead safety, call:
(207) 287-4311/ TTY 1(800) 606-0215