

What you can do

At home:

- Take off outdoor shoes
- Wash your hands before eating
- Clean your home regularly with a wet mop or HEPA-filter vacuum
- Don't dry sand or scrape lead paint
- Check the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)
- If renovating, see the DEFRA guide

At work:

- Follow the Control of Lead at Work Act (CLAW)
- If painting, follow "PaintSafe"
- Don't take leaded dust on your clothes home, or into your car
- Take a lead-safe training course

Test for lead (see our [website](#)) in:

- Paint
- Soil
- Dust
- Water
- Blood



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Real quotes from parents

"I feel so upset. So sad. So guilty. And first and foremost so scared. My 18 month old son deserves so much more than to be lead poisoned. All I can do now that I have found the source is to eliminate it. And keep him away until then. And I'm heartbroken."

"My little man had a lead level high as 20 when we found out. As a mum I'm completely devastated that I didn't do more research on my house before moving in! My sweet baby. The guilt I feel is terrible."



The LEAPP Alliance is a group of academics, parents, service providers and advocates who aim to promote lead poisoning prevention in the UK

See leappalliance.org.uk for more details, evidence and our manifesto; or email info@leappalliance.org.uk.



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LEAPP Alliance



Toxic Lead: Still Here Still Harming



Does your home or workplace contain toxic amounts of lead?

Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention Alliance

leappalliance.org.uk

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Should we still worry about lead?

- Lead is widespread through use in old paint, petrol and plumbing, resulting in contamination of water, soil and dust
- Lead can also be found in other items such as toys, drinking glasses, traditional medicines, spices, brass, road markings, cosmetics, ceramics, jewellery and light-aircraft fuel
- It is estimated that around 214,000 UK children have elevated blood lead concentrations. Most are never tested
- Lead exposure is estimated to cost the country £6 billion per year
- Around 55% of homes were built before lead paint was labelled (1963). 82% of homes were built before most lead paint was banned (1992)
- 6-9 million homes probably still have some lead pipes and some others have lead-soldered copper pipes

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What harm does lead do?

Studies have found associations between lead and harm throughout life, and even before birth, contributing to:



Reproductive – miscarriage, pre-term birth, low birth weight, delayed puberty



Neurological - IQ loss, ADHD, lower academic achievement, decreased hearing, language difficulties, essential tremor



Psychological - problem behaviour, depression, anxiety, panic



Cardiovascular – heart attack, stroke, increased blood pressure



Renal – reduced kidney function

In many cases there are no immediate symptoms, but acute lead poisoning in children can include irritability, fatigue, loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal pain, vomiting, and constipation

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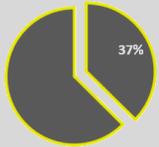
How much disease can be attributed to lead?

Examples

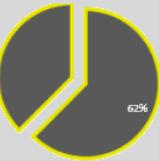
ADHD (21%)



Coronary heart disease deaths (37%)



Idiopathic developmental intellectual disability (62%)



How much lead does it take



Very little. The USA child reference intake level in food is just 2.2 µg lead per day (2.2 millionths of a gram). That is about the weight of 1/18th of an eyelash.

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References

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P2 **Bullet 1**

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- Blood
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Facebook “Lead poisoning support group” and “Lead Poisoning Awareness and Support”

Image credits and licences

P1 Maine, USA Lead Poisoning Prevention programme. Copyright, permission requested. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/eohp/lead/index.shtml>

P4,5,6 Courtesy of Public Health – Seattle & King County, artwork by Amy Camber. <https://publichealthinsider.com/2019/08/05/why-testing-for-lead-helps-kids-and-how-you-can-get-free-testing/>

Review comments

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