What is the Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program?

Childhood lead poisoning is the number one preventable environmental health problem facing children today. The City of San Diego is committed to eliminating lead poisoning through its Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program (LSNP).

The goal of eliminating lead poisoning in the community will be accomplished by providing information, education, resources, and enforcement.

Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program Services

Liaison: Serves as the primary liaison for connecting the community with resources to prevent lead poisoning.

Outreach: Provides outreach to increase awareness on the dangers of lead and how to ensure lead-safe homes.

Training: Provides training on lead hazard awareness and lead safe work practices to contractors, property owners, childcare providers, parents, residents, and landlords.

Lead Hazard Investigation: Responds to lead hazard tips and complaints and works with the property owner or contractor to correct the problem.

Lead Hazard Removal: For qualified* residents who live in a home built before 1979, two services are offered:

- *lead hazard assessments, and*
- *lead paint hazard removal.*

These services are completed in partnership with the San Diego Housing Commission and other community organizations.

**Residents must qualify as low income and there must be a child below the age of seven spending at least 30% of their time in the home.*

Blood Testing: Provides vouchers for free blood lead tests for children if they are not covered by any other health program.

Call the Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program with any questions or to report a possible lead hazard, including pre-1979 buildings with cracking, peeling and chalking paint, and people unsafely disturbing paint on pre-1979 buildings.

City of San Diego, Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance became law on May 9, 2008.

Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program
(858) 694-7000
Lead-Safe@sandiego.gov

www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/leadsafe.shtml

Other Resources:

Lead Hazard Grants and Loans
The San Diego Housing Commission
(619) 578-7521
www.sdhc.net/hahelpfix1.shtml

San Diego County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
(619) 515-6694
www.sdlead.org

California Department of Public Health
1-(510) 620-5600
www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead
(800) 597-LEAD (for construction questions)

U.S. EPA National Lead Information Center
1-(800) 424-LEAD
www.epa.gov/lead

5/08

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program

Eliminating Lead Poisoning in San Diego

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

LEAD SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

(858) 694-7000
Lead-Safe@sandiego.gov

9601 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, CA 92123
www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/leadsafe.shtm

What is lead? .....and why is it harmful?

Lead is a soft metal that has had many uses throughout history; however, lead is also a poison. When lead is eaten or inhaled, it can cause health problems in both children and adults.

Sources of Lead Poisoning

Lead-based paint in poor condition, typically found on buildings constructed before 1979, is the primary source of lead poisoning. Other major sources are:

- *pottery containing lead in the glaze,*
- *some foreign candies, especially from Mexico,*
- *soil and dust especially around older, busy roads.*

Home remedies

Some other sources are home remedies, metal jewelry, plastic wire insulation, and crystal.

Childhood Lead Poisoning

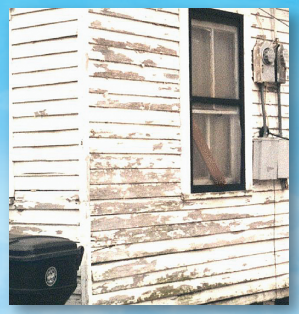
Because children six years and younger are rapidly growing and often place their hands and other objects in their mouths, they have a higher risk for lead poisoning than other age groups. Lead poisoning can permanently damage a child's nervous system, decrease brain development, and cause behavioral problems and learning disabilities. **You will not know if your child has been poisoned until they get a lead blood test.** Research shows a connection between being lead poisoned as a child and criminal activity in teenagers and adults.

Identifying and Removing Lead Hazards

It is critical to your family's health to have lead hazards removed promptly from your home. Contact the Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program for information, assistance, and training on how to assess your home for lead hazards, remove lead hazards yourself, or receive a list of qualified lead professionals.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE FROM LEAD POISONING

Lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Here are easy ways to reduce the risk of lead poisoning:



Keep children away from cracked, peeling, and chalking paint. Repair these conditions as soon as possible.

Get your child tested for lead at 12 and 24 months of age and immediately after possible lead exposure.

Wash hands often and thoroughly, especially before eating, going to sleep, and after school or playing.

These candies have high lead content. Do not eat imported candies unless you know they are safe.

Do not eat from, cook in, or store food in imported ceramic pottery.

Do not let children play in bare soil that may contain lead. Cover soil with sod or other thick, protective covering to create a barrier from the lead.

Keep your home clean. Wet-dust often with soapy water and disposable wipes, such as paper towels.

Eat plenty of iron, vitamin C, and calcium rich foods. Good nutrition helps the body to absorb less lead.

Remove shoes before entering the house. Keep them outside or in the entry area.

www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/leadsafe.shtml