

LEAD FREE



Facts about Lead and the Body from Infancy to Adulthood

THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF LEAD EXPOSURE

Even a small amount of lead may have immediate and lifelong effects, negatively targeting intelligence, behavior, ability to pay attention and academic achievement.

Children and adults may be exposed to lead from paint chips, dust indoors and outside, drinking water from pipes and fittings in older homes, vintage toys or drinkware, imported jewelry, and more.

Children under six and pregnant women are at greatest risk. Most medical offices offer blood lead testing. Free testing can be found through local health offices.

Effects of lead toxicity include:

- Learning and Behavior Problems
- Brain and Nervous System Damage
- Growth and Development Challenges
- Hearing and Speech Challenges

Treatment starts with removing or reducing lead exposure. A medical doctor may recommend abdominal X-ray, bowel decontamination, and/or treatment with chelation therapy, — a medication that binds to lead and removes it through the urine.

FETAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFANCY

Exposure to lead during pregnancy can cause high blood pressure, miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth, and low birth weight. Lead exposure during fetal development could result in problems with brain, nervous system and kidney function or cause learning and behavior-related issues including delayed developmental milestones.

Lead toxicity sure can pass from mother to child, so lead prevention is key! Ask your doctor for a blood lead level test.



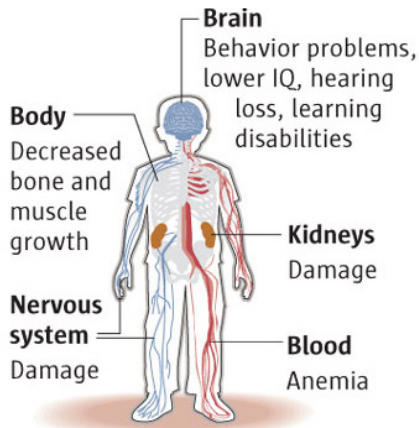
What should I do if I suspect lead poisoning in my child?

Get tested! Children under six should be tested annually for lead, and whenever exposure is suspected.



CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Young children are the most vulnerable to lead poisoning, as they may directly ingest it by eating paint chips or breathing in dust at floor level. Small bodies will reach toxic levels more quickly, and very high lead levels may cause death.



Lead exposure may lead to:

- Learning or behavioral problems including hyperactivity.
- Developmental delays and failure to reach age-appropriate milestones.
- Damage to major organs including the brain, kidneys, liver, and more
- Hearing and speech problems
- Constipation and gastrointestinal distress

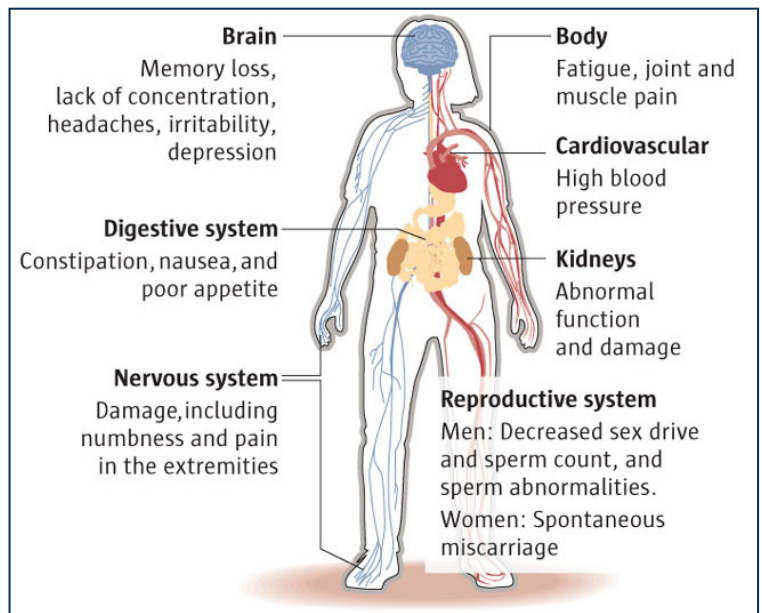
School age children may experience emotional, behavioral and learning difficulties that may result in poor performance in class or problems with their peers.

ADULT CONCERNS AND COMPLICATIONS

Adults can suffer lead poisoning through exposure at work in construction, mining or auto repair. Exposure from lead pipes, dust, contaminated soil, imported jewelry or vintage glassware are also common. Lead can also linger in the bones and present symptoms later in life.

Symptoms in adults may include:

- Memory lapses and trouble concentrating
- Headache with or without high blood pressure or anemia
- Fatigue with or without joint pain or numbness in hands and feet
- Gastrointestinal distress including constipation, vomiting, weight loss, and lack of appetite
- Hearing loss
- Fertility problems in men, including low sperm count
- Possibility for miscarriage or developmental concerns in utero. High blood levels may also make it unsafe to breastfeed



Lead-Free New Jersey is committed to educating and empowering residents and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive suite of solutions for the remediation of lead in paint, water, and soil from homes, schools and childcare centers. Join us to **GET THE LEAD OUT.**

