

Get the LEAD Out

A Bay Area Coalition of Lead Poisoning Prevention Leaders

Tips for Lead-Safe Toys

- 1. TO AVOID LEAD HAZARDS, CONSIDER CREATIVE TOY ALTERNATIVES**
See other side for a list of safer toy ideas.
- 2. IN ADDITION TO PAINT, LEAD MAY BE FOUND IN PRODUCTS CONTAINING VINYL, PLASTIC, OR METAL**
Some examples include: some soft plastic items, vinyl lunch boxes, metal charms, hard plastic toys, children's jewelry, and products purchased from vending machines.
- 3. EXAMINE TOYS FOR SIGN OF WEAR, ESPECIALLY IF YOUR CHILD IS MOUTHING, BITING OR CHEWING TOYS.** Signs of wear include sun damage, fading, bite marks, chips or breaks in the painted surface.
- 4. A BLOOD TEST IS THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO LEAD**
Ask your doctor for a simple blood lead test or call your local health department for assistance.
- 5. CHECK THE RECALL LIST FOR ANY TOYS YOU ARE CONSIDERING BUYING (WWW.CPSC.GOV)**
Recalled toys should be returned to the manufacturer or store where purchased.
- 6. BECOME INFORMED ABOUT THE USES AND LIMITATIONS OF HOME LEAD TESTING KITS**
While available at most hardware stores, keep in mind that positive test results are most likely positive but negative results for toys may be unreliable. Most kits only test what is on the surface and may not indicate lead even if it is present. Remove any toys that test positive.
- 7. LEARN ABOUT OTHER SOURCES OF LEAD**
Lead comes in many other forms - in the paint of older homes, glazes for pottery and some home remedies, for example. The most common source of lead for young children is the lead found in household dust when old paint is in poor condition or disturbed during home renovation projects. This dust gets on hands and toys that find their way into a young child's mouth.
- 8. WASH TOYS REGULARLY TO CLEAN OFF HOUSEHOLD DUST**
Toys may pick up lead dust in older homes from deteriorating paint and soil.
- 9. USE AGE-APPROPRIATE TOYS**
Check the recommended age on the packaging.
- 10. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD POISONING PREVENTION**
Contact your local lead poisoning prevention program

Coalition members include representatives from:

Alameda County ▪ City of Berkeley ▪ City and County of San Francisco ▪ Contra Costa County ▪ Marin County ▪ Monterey County
Santa Clara County ▪ Santa Cruz County ▪ San Joaquin County ▪ San Mateo County ▪ Solano County

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