Where is lead commonly found?

**Lead in Paint**

Lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust are the most widespread and hazardous sources of lead exposure for young children in the United States. Homes built in the U.S. before 1978 are likely to have some lead-based paint. When the paint peels and cracks, it makes lead paint chips and dust.

Some common surfaces covered with lead-based paint:

- Windows
- Stairways
- Doors
- Cabinets
- Floors
- Antique furniture
- Porches

**Lead in Soil**

Deposits from years of leaded gasoline use and industrial sources may also contaminate soil. Lead-contaminated soil particles can also be brought inside as lead dust or on shoes, clothing, or pets.

Areas to consider:

- Bare soil around foundation of home
- Sandboxes
- Vegetable garden
- Artificial turf
- Playground

**Lead in Drinking Water**

The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures. Certain pipes that carry drinking water from the water source to the home may contain lead. Household plumbing fixtures, welding solder, and pipe fittings made prior to 1986 may also contain lead.

In 2017, the General Assembly passed Public Act 99-0922. This requires schools and day cares to sample for lead contamination in water that were constructed on or before January 1, 2000.


**Lead in Consumer Products**

Lead can be found in some consumer products made in other countries and then imported into the U.S. or in collectible items no longer produced in the U.S. but passed down through the generations. Lead may be found in the paint on toys, which was banned in the U.S., but is still widely used in other countries. Lead may also be found on older toys made in the U.S. before the ban. Make sure children do not have access to toys, jewelry, or other items that may contain lead. A list of recalled items can be found at the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Recalls: [https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/)

Items to consider that could contain lead:

- Toys (painted, plastic, or metal)
- Jewelry
- Charms
- China dishware
- Leaded crystal
- Glazed pottery
Lead in Foods, Cosmetics, and Medicines

Lead is sometimes found in foods, candies, spices, cosmetics, and traditional medicines or ceremonial powders. A list of re-called items can be found at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Recalls:
https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts

Commonly identified items that may contain lead:

Food/candies
- Some candies (containing chili powder and Tamarind)
- Chapulines (grasshopper snacks)

Spices
- Curry powder
- Chili Powder
- Tumeric
- Paprika

Cosmetics/ceremonial powders
- Kajal
- Kohl
- Surma
- Kumkum
- Sindoor

Home remedies
- Azarcon
- Paylooah
- Greta
- Ghasard
- Ayurvedic remedies

Lead in Jobs, Hobbies, or Other Activities

Parents may bring lead into the home from certain jobs or hobbies (“take home exposure”) such as:

- Stained glass
- Pottery making
- Firing range
- Casting ammunition
- Hazardous waste
- Abatement/cleanup of buildings
- Lead industry
- Jewelry making
- Chemical preparation
- Game meat
- Mining
- Automotive repair
- Recycling material
- Brass or copper foundry
- Operating industrial machinery or equipment
- Glass manufacturing
- Automotive repair
- Valve and pipefitting
- Operating industrial machinery or equipment
- Bridge, tunnel, and elevated highway construction
- Radiator repair
- Refinishing furniture with finishes containing lead
- Welding
- Target shooting
- Operating industrial machinery or equipment
- Refinishing furniture with finishes containing lead
- Pottery making
- Hazardous waste
- Abatement/cleanup of buildings

If you are concerned about lead in your home, visit dph.illinois.gov/illinoislead for a list of licensed lead risk assessors and abatement contractors.