

WHAT IS LEAD?

- Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed.
- Lead can be found in air, soil, dust, food, and water.

HOW CAN I BE EXPOSED TO LEAD?

- The greatest exposure to lead is swallowing or breathing in lead paint chips and dust.
- Lead also can be found in some household plumbing materials and water service lines.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- Children ages 6 and under are at the greatest risk. Pregnant women and nursing mothers should avoid exposure to lead to protect their children.
- Exposure to lead can result in delays in physical and mental development. Your child is also at risk if:
 - your home or a home that your child spends a lot of time in was built before lead paint was banned in 1978.
 - renovation work is being done in such a home.
 - the adults in the home work with lead.

HOTLINES & INFORMATION

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline:
800-426-4791

National Lead Information Center:
800-424-LEAD
www.epa.gov/lead

NSF International:
www.nsf.org

Lead in Drinking Water Web Site:
www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Additional Information:

Read the annual report you get from your water utility to find out about how they are working to reduce levels of lead in drinking water and other information about your drinking water. Call them if you have any questions.

Contact your local public health department or talk to your doctor about reducing your family's exposure to lead.

Office of Water (4606 M)
EPA 816-F-05-001
February 2005

Printed on Recycled Paper



IS THERE LEAD IN MY DRINKING WATER?

You can reduce the risk of lead exposure from drinking water in your home.



Tips For Protecting Your Family's Health