

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM LEAD EXPOSURE



*UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES*

CHILD LEAD STUDY GROUP



Contact Information
Phone number: (915) 747- 8570
Email: casobin@utep.edu



Effects of Lead

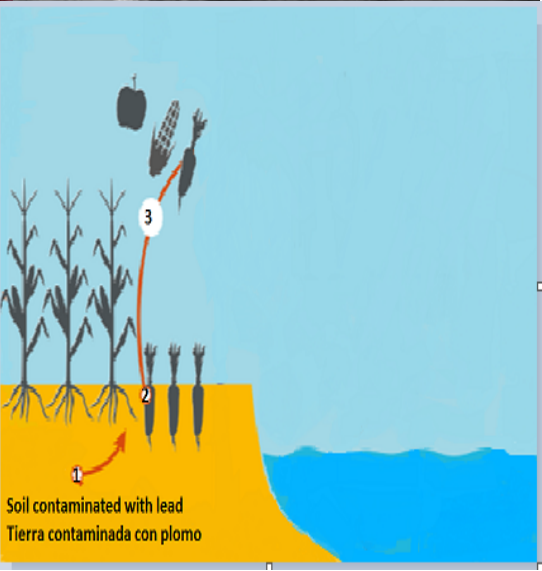


Effects of Lead

- ❑ Lead is a toxic metal used in many products and materials.

- ❑ In children, lead causes:
 - Memory problems
 - Learning problems
 - Lower IQ in children
 - Poor attention
 - Problem behavior

Many sources



Sources of Lead

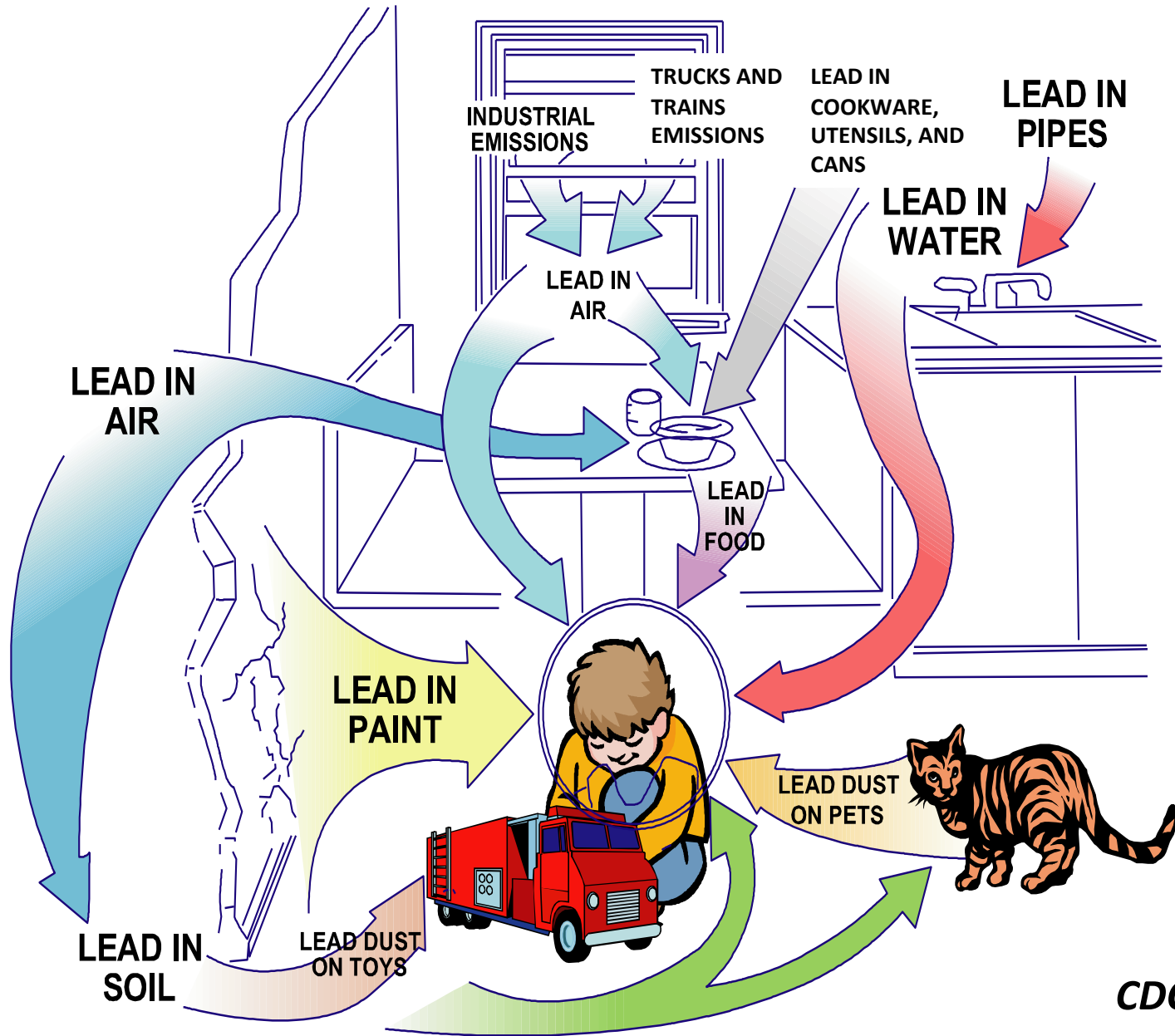
- Paint in pre-1978 housing
- Chipping and peeling paint
- Children's jewelry, inexpensive jewelry, and painted toys
- Food items such as Mexican candy, Azarcon, Greta
- Old pipes
- Glazed pottery
- Imported building materials
- Industry
- Car batteries
- Gasoline

“Hand to mouth activity”



- ❑ Young children (under age 5) are the most vulnerable.
- ❑ The most common way for lead to get into children's bodies is through "hand to mouth" activity, and swallowing contaminated soil, dust and paint chips.
- ❑ Children can also *inhale* lead contaminated dust

How Lead Gets into Children



How children get exposed to lead at home:

- Breathing lead in air from industries, trucks and trains.
- Lead in the air can get into children's foods.
- Eating food that was kept in leaded cookware, utensils, cans.
- Drinking water contaminated by old pipes and faucets.
- Eating paint chips.
- Getting soil on their hands and in their mouths.
- Swallowing dust or soil from dirty toys.
- House pets can bring contaminated dust and soil into the home.

Test child lead level

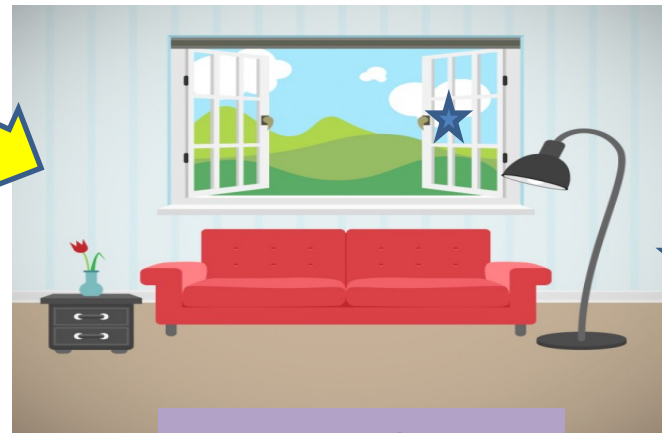


If lead is detected in children,
FIND THE LEAD SOURCE

Exterior of home



AND FIX IT!!!



Interior of home

What do we need to do?

- Test children**
- If a child has blood lead, **test the home** to find the sources
- Fix** the sources
- Retest** the child every 3-4 months, for 1 to 2 years

Preventing Lead Exposure



Simple Ways to Reduce Lead Exposure

Inside the house

- Wash** your child's hands and toys
- Wet mop floors, wet wipe windows, and surfaces **every week** to control dust
- Take off shoes** before entering the house
- Vacuum carpets and upholstery with a **HEPA filter vacuum**
- DO NOT store** food in imported pottery or glazed dishware
- Use **cold tap water** for drinking and cooking
- DO NOT use** home remedies (azarcon, greta, pay-loo-ah), some cosmetics (kohl or alkohl), or Mexican candy
- Have your **home tested** for lead by a lead professional

Preventing Lead Exposure



Simple Ways to Reduce Lead Exposure

Outside the house

- CHECK** for recalled toys and jewelry (<https://www.cpsc.gov/>)
- BRUSH AND WIPE DOWN** your pet before letting them inside; wash them when possible
- DO NOT BURN** car batteries, tires, or old painted wood
- DO NOT BLOW TORCH** painted surfaces to remove paint
- DO NOT SAND, SCRAPE or SAW** old painted surfaces before testing for lead
- PICK UP** loose paint chips carefully with a WET paper towel; wipe surfaces clean with a WET paper towel

If renovating

- TEST** all surfaces **FIRST** to determine if lead paint is a problem
- TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS** to avoid creating lead dust when remodeling or renovating your home
- PROPERLY DISPOSE** of renovated waste materials

LEAD MITIGATION



Simple Home Lead Mitigation Options

- Paint over lead** in home using lead encapsulant paint
- Replace** lead contaminated soil with clean soil
- Cover** lead contaminated soil with a physical barrier such as turf, mulch, stones or gravel
- Add** phosphate fertilizer to bind lead in soil

Online Resources

- ❑ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
<https://www.cdc.gov/lead/>
- ❑ United States Environmental Protection Agency
<https://www.epa.gov/lead/>
- ❑ Alliance for Healthy Homes
<https://www.afhh.org/>
- ❑ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/healthyhomes/lead

Acknowledgements

This work is made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Also with support from the UTEP Center for Environmental Resources Management, the UTEP Border Biomedical Research Center (BBRC), National Institutes of Health, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, and the J. Edward and Helen M. C. Stern Foundation