



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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Facts About Lead Dust and Children

- Elevated Blood Lead Levels (Lead Poisoning) can occur in any household that contains lead based paint.
- The most common cause of lead poisoning in children is ingestion of lead dust through normal hand to mouth activity.
- Lead dust can be produced by flaking and peeling paint, but the biggest source is impact and friction areas such as windows and doors.
- Children can become lead poisoned by very small amounts of lead dust that can't be seen with the naked eye.
- Children play in areas that may look clean, but have lead dust present. Toys, fingers and other objects that they put in their mouths may have lead dust on them.
- Very young children are more prone to lead poisoning because they put more objects in their mouths.
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead than adults.
- Lead poisoning can result in long-term and sometimes irreversible damage to the brain, kidneys and the nervous system.
- Lead poisoning has also been linked to learning and behavior problems, and lowered I.Q.'s.

Parents must recognize lead based paint hazards and learn how to deal with them. The Essential Maintenance Practices Clinic (EMP), sponsored by the Burlington Lead Program and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Health, is a free workshop that teaches skills and provides information to parents, landlords and tenants to help them reduce lead paint hazards. For more information on Lead Paint Hazard Reduction or to sign up for an EMP clinic, call the Burlington Lead Program at (802) 865-5323.