Prescriptions for Prevention

Lead in Homes

Montgomery County, PA

Did you know?

Lead paint dust in older homes is the main way children are exposed to lead. Even low levels of lead can affect a child's learning and behavior.

Action Plan

- Unless environmental testing shows otherwise, assume paint in homes built before 1978 contains lead. Any peeling paint or lead dust is a risk to children.
- Your child should be tested for lead at their 1 and 2 year old well child visit. Older children should be tested if you are concerned about a lead exposure.
- Wet dust and mop daily to eliminate lead dust and paint chips.
- All home repairs that disrupt paint in homes built before 1978 should be done by a lead certified contractor. **Find one at the following link:**
- Renters: If peeling paint is present, talk to your landlord. If unsatisfied with their response, contact your local municipality's code official.
- Many water service lines are made of lead or have lead solder. This can contaminate the drinking water in your home especially when it sits in the pipe for more than 6 hours. Running the water in your kitchen sink for 3-5 minutes before consuming it in the morning and after work will lower the amount of lead in your water.
- Find out if you have a lead service line by following the steps outlined **in this video:**

Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health
NIEHS Grant: P2CES033428
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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Resources

Montgomery County Lead Hazard Reduction Program

If you rent or own a home in Montgomery County, PA that was built before 1978, and a child under 6 or a pregnant woman lives in the home, you may be eligible for Montgomery County's Lead Hazard Reduction Program. They will send out a licensed lead inspector to test your home for lead and a contractor to remediate free of charge. For more information, call 610-278-5117 ext: 6723 or visit their **website:**

Whole Home Repair

If you are a home owner and need assistance with home repairs you may qualify for help through the Habitat for Humanity's Whole Home Repair Program. For more information call: (610) 278-7710 ext 134 or fill out their inquiry form at: habitatmontdelco.org/home-repair-inquiry-form/

Montgomery County Health Department

Call the Montgomery County Health Department at 610-278-5117 if you have questions about lead exposures and steps you can take.

Questions? Contact us at 215-573-9076 or prcceh@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Visit our website at prcceh.upenn.edu

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