Prescriptions for Prevention

Lead in Homes

Philadelphia County

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. Philadelphia landlords are **required** to have their rental property certified as lead safe. If unsatisfied with their response, call the Philadelphia Lead and Healthy Homes program at 215-685-2788.
- 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

Lead and Healthy Homes Program

Philadelphia requires children to be tested for their blood lead levels at ages 1 and 2. If your child's blood lead level is **at or above 3.5 µg/dL**, you are eligible for Philadelphia's Lead and Healthy Homes Program (LHHP). LHHP will send out a licensed lead inspector to test your home for lead and a health educator to provide resources free of charge. For more information call 215-685-2788 or **visit their website:**

Fair Housing Commission

The Fair Housing Commission (FHC) makes sure that renters have safe places to live and that landlords follow housing laws. You can contact them if your landlord refuses to safely remediate lead by calling (215) 686-4670.

Remediate Peeling Lead Paint

If you are a home owner and need assistance with fixing peeling lead paint or other home structural problems you may qualify for help through the Philadelphia Energy Authority. Currently there is a 2 year waitlist. For more information call: (215) 686-4483 or **fill out their application:**

Free Blood Lead Testing

Children can be tested for their blood lead levels at City Health Centers 2-10. **Visit this website** to locate the one closest to you:

Water Quality Testing

If you are concerned about lead in your water the Philadelphia Water Department will conduct free water quality tests. You can schedule a test by calling (215) 685-6300. If you have a lead service line, the Homeowners Emergency Loan Program is a zero-interest loan for homeowners who want to replace their lead service lines.

For more information on the resources here or other questions, contact the Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health at:
215-573-9076 **prcceh@pennmedicine.upenn.edu**
Website: **prcceh.upenn.edu**

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