

Take-Home Lead Exposure

What is take-home lead?



Take-home lead is lead residue that an adult unknowingly brings home from their job or hobby that can be passed on to children or other family members.

Some types of work create a lead dust that is invisible to the eye and has no smell. This dust attaches to clothing, shoes, skin, hair and personal belongings. When an adult goes home, this dust can then attach to their furniture, floors and other objects. If children put these contaminated objects in their mouths they can become exposed to lead.

Children that are exposed to lead can develop learning behavior and health problems.

Jobs or hobbies associated with take-home lead:

- Tearing down or remodeling houses, buildings, tanks or bridges
- Painting or removing old paint
- Making bullets
- Making or fixing radiators or batteries, painting ceramics
- Soldering
- Plumbing
- Making jewelry
- Stained-glass work
- Refinishing furniture



Steps to take to prevent take-home lead exposure:

- Wear protective equipment on the job, including a respirator.
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking or touching your face.
- Shower, wash your hair and change into clean clothes and shoes before leaving work. Do not take contaminated work clothes and shoes home.
- If you must, remove shoes before entering the house and bring clothes in a sealed bag. Wash clothes separately and after removing them from the machine, run the rinse cycle once before using the machine again.
- Avoid taking other contaminated items from work to your home, such as travel coffee mugs or gloves.
- Cover vehicle seats and floor mats with washable coverings and wash weekly.

If you work with lead, take these steps to protect your family

Before you leave work:



Shower

While at work:

Follow protocols for staying clean during work breaks.



Change clothes and shoes

Protect your personal belongings from lead exposure.

- Glasses
- Cellphone
- Watch
- Hats
- Keys

These are items small children may want to play with or put in their mouths. Leave these items at home, in your car, or place in a clean locker room before work.



Wash work clothes separately

Do **NOT** eat in work area, keep lunch items in the break room

Do **NOT** go to car during breaks at work

ALWAYS wash hands and face with soap and water before eating, drinking or smoking