

Find the Lead Before They Do

Tips to Prevent Lead Poisoning

- Have your child screened regularly.
- Remove all loose, chipping or flaking paint.
- Remove or permanently cover lead-based paint on chewable surfaces.
- Wet mop dusty surfaces with tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) available in hardware stores.
- Wash your own and your child's hands frequently.
- Wash infant teething toys frequently.
- If you work with lead on the job, shower and change clothes before you come home.
- Provide well-balanced meals, low in fat and high in iron and calcium.
- Get your soil tested.
- Remove or cover contaminated soil.
- Plant gardens away from painted structures and busy roads.
- Learn the risk factors and sources of lead poisoning.
- Inform relatives and friends about lead poisoning.

Safety Guidelines for Removing Lead-Based Paint

Choose the least hazardous method of paint removal. Do not use sanders, high temperature heatguns, or open flames for lead paint removal. Dry scraping, done properly, controls the dust, eases cleaning, and is the most economical method.

Make sure children, nursing and pregnant women and pets are out of the work area.

Remove, drape with plastic cloths, or bag and seal all belongings.

Seal off the work area to prevent contaminating non-work areas.

Wear protective clothing including goggles, gloves, hair and shoe covers.

Wear an appropriate filtered respirator to avoid breathing in dust or fumes.

Use drop cloths to catch all particles and debris.

Do not smoke or eat in the work area.

Provide proper ventilation and filtered exhaust.

Clean the work area thoroughly each day. Wipe all surfaces with a high phosphate cleaner.

Wash work clothes separately from the family laundry.

Contact your local board of health for information on proper disposal of leaded debris and cleaning materials.

Household Sources

Painted Surfaces

- Window wells and sills
- Door frames and sills
- Walls
- Woodwork
- Floors and stairs
- Porches, outbuildings
- Railings and bannisters
- Toys and play equipment
- Pipes and fixtures
- Furniture
- Kitchen utensils

Food

- Grown in contaminated soil
- Stored in poorly-glazed pottery
- Contaminated by dust and residue from the air or hands

Soil

- Near lead-painted buildings that have weathered or been scraped or sandblasted.
- Near busy roads.
- Near orchards and other areas sprayed with lead arsenate for insect control.

Air-borne Sources

- Fumes from lead-painted materials that have been burned, sandblasted or heated.
- Fumes from auto and industrial emissions.
- Fumes from burning painted wood and certain printed materials in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Dust spread by people who work with lead.
- Dust created by removing lead paint during home renovation projects.

Other Sources

- Art and craft supplies such as solder, pigments, enamels, and glazes
- Some pottery, jewelry, game pieces and objects such as batteries and curtain weights
- Some collectibles, antiques, and hand-me-downs, including baby furniture
- Some gifts and souvenirs from other countries
- Some painted glassware, old porcelain and ceramics, antique pewter
- Books, magazines, printed wrappers, decals, packaging
- Some folk medicines and home remedies, especially those from Mexico, India and Southeast Asia
- Sporting supplies such as lead sinkers and bullets

Further Information

General Information

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
305 South Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
1-800-532-9571 (toll-free)

Occupational Exposure

Massachusetts Department of Labor & Industries
Division of Occupational Hygiene
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202
(617) 727-3982

Soil Testing

Suffolk County Extension Service
(Suffolk County only)
150 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02202
(617) 727-4107

Fee: Free to households with children under age 6 and pregnant women, others \$5.00

Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service
Suburban Experiment Station
Waltham, MA 02254
(617) 891-0650

Fee: \$5.00

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

Philip W. Johnston
Secretary of Human Services

Bailus Walker, Jr.
Commissioner of Public Health

June 1985

Lead Poisoning Facts & Guidelines



Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program

What is Lead Poisoning?

Too much lead in the body can cause serious damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system and red blood cells. High levels can cause retardation, convulsions, coma and sometimes death. Low levels can slow a child's normal development and cause learning and behavioral problems.

How Do Children Become Lead Poisoned?

While most interior and exterior house paints sold since the mid-1970s have not contained lead, most older Massachusetts homes still have surfaces painted with lead-based paint. Lead poisoning is caused by eating, chewing or sucking on lead painted objects such as window sills, railings, toys, furniture, jewelry or printed material. Other sources include contaminated soil or dust and fumes created by home renovation and sandblasting. The risk of lead poisoning is increased by normal hand-to-mouth activity in young children.

What Conditions Increase the Risk of Lead Poisoning?

Children living in older urban areas where housing is often poorly maintained are most commonly affected. However, children of people who work with lead on-the-job and children living in older homes undergoing renovation can be affected, too. Children whose diets do not provide enough calcium or iron can also be at increased risk.

What are the Symptoms of Lead Poisoning?

Most children have no symptoms, and when symptoms appear, they are often similar to common childhood complaints such as headaches, irritability, tiredness, lack of appetite and stomach aches. Because these symptoms are not specific, parents and physicians may not suspect lead poisoning. A blood screening test is the only sure way to detect lead poisoning.

Who Should be Tested and How Often?

Children between the ages of 9 months and 6 years should be tested annually. The first screening should be done between May and October. Children between the ages of 1 and 3 years who are at increased risk of lead poisoning should be screened every 2 to 3 months especially in the summer, while children between the ages of 3 and 6 years should be screened every 6 months.

What is a Lead Test?

There are two kinds of lead tests. The first is a screening test or FEP test. It does not directly measure lead in the blood but instead measures the effect of lead on red blood cell development. The FEP test is done by pricking the finger, taking a small amount of blood and analyzing that blood sample. If the FEP level is elevated, lead could be interfering with the child's ability to use iron and could mean the child is lead poisoned.

When the FEP is more than 35, a lead (Pb) test is done. This measures the amount of lead in blood drawn from a vein. If the level of lead in the blood is more than 25 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood the child is poisoned.

What if My Child is Poisoned?

Your child will receive both medical and environmental follow-up. Your physician will choose a treatment based on the blood test results. Your physician may counsel you about the sources of lead and retest your child frequently. He or she may also prescribe iron, further tests such as x-rays, or chelation therapy. Chelation therapy is the use of chemicals to help the body get rid of lead. Sometimes this must be done more than once. When a child has been poisoned, he or she should be tested frequently for a year or more.

The environmental follow-up will include an inspection of your home, a discussion about your child's habits, and tips on prevention. If lead is found, the law requires the removal or covering of lead paint, plaster or other material on both interior and exterior surfaces.

What Is the Massachusetts Lead Law and How Does It Work?

General Information

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
305 South Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
1-800-532-9571 (toll-free)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning
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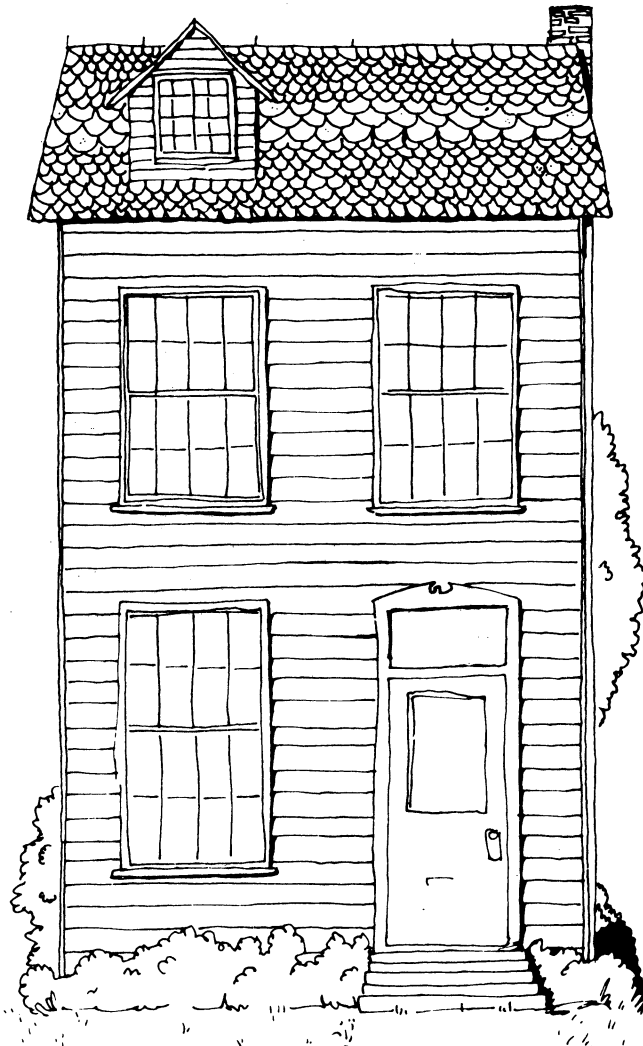
Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

Philip W. Johnston
Secretary of Human Services

Bailus Walker, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Public Health

Edward V. Cosgrove, Ph.D.
Director of CLPPP

June 1986



Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program

The Massachusetts Lead Law

In 1971, Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 111, Sections 190-199 created the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). Working within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the CLPPP shares responsibility with the local boards of health for administering the Lead Law.

The Massachusetts Lead Law forbids the use of lead-based paint or glaze on inside or outside surfaces of any dwelling, fixtures, furniture, toys, or cooking, eating or drinking utensils.

The law also forbids selling or giving away of any toys, furniture, or utensils that are covered or decorated with lead-based paint or glaze.

How Does the Law Work?

Program staff analyze blood and paint samples for lead, inspect buildings for lead paint, and enforce the removal of lead hazards from the homes of children less than six years old. The staff also provides case management services for lead-poisoned children, making sure that they get the medical treatment they need.

Parents of children under six, day care providers, and property owners may request a lead-paint inspection. CLPPP inspectors give first priority for inspection to the homes of lead-poisoned children. If the inspector finds a lead paint violation, the property owner must correct it in compliance with the Lead Law.

Additional Information

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program provides information free on request.

Lead Poisoning: Facts and Guidelines (brochure) Describes the causes, effects, risk factors, detection methods, and treatment of lead poisoning. Includes prevention tips and safety guidelines for removing lead paint.

Deleader's Manual: A Handbook for Safe Lead Paint Removal

Explains relevant sections of the Massachusetts Lead Law and Regulations for de-leading contractors. Describes safe methods for removing residential lead paint hazards.

Lead Advisory (handout)

Condensed from the **Deleader's Manual**. Lists safety precautions for lead paint removal and owners', occupants', and contractors' responsibilities.

There are also posters, slides, tapes, and other educational materials.

What are the Legal Responsibilities of Property Owners?

The property owner must **safely remove** or **permanently cover** lead paint in any house or apartment where a child under six lives or will live if the paint is on a **chewable surface** or is cracking, flaking or peeling. The lead paint must be completely removed down to the wood, metal, plaster or other base material.

Chewable surfaces are parts of the house up to four feet from the ground or floor and up to four inches back from any edge. Chewable surfaces include: window sills, doors, door frames, baseboards, stair rails, spindles, stair treads from the lip to the riser on the bottom and four inches back from the lip on the top of the tread, porch railings, and other inside and outside surfaces or fixtures.

Permanently cover means to enclose or cover a surface (such as a wall) or fixture (such as a railing or pipe). Building a box around the pipe will permanently cover a lead hazard. Contact paper will not. Painting over the lead-based paint on chewable or peeling surfaces with non-lead paint does not satisfy the law.

Safely means using proper methods and precautions. If paint removal is not done properly, the lead dust, fumes and scrapings can cause lead poisoning. Lead poisoning is especially tragic when children are poisoned by efforts to remove lead-based paint.

Safety Guidelines

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program has safety guidelines for lead paint removal. Safety guidelines include:

- evacuating all children, pregnant or nursing women, and pets
- removing or draping and sealing the occupants' belongings to protect them from dust and chips
- using drop cloths inside and out to protect floors and soil from dust and debris
- protecting workers with appropriate respirators and protective clothing
- ensuring adequate ventilation
- ensuring proper clean-up and disposal of dust and debris.

Can a Landlord be Held Liable for a Lead-Poisoned Child?

Yes. The landlord or homeowner is legally responsible if a child is poisoned. A landlord cannot avoid liability by asking tenants to sign an agreement that they accept the presence of lead paint.

Property owners may be fined up to \$500 per day for violation of the law. Triple damages can be collected from an owner who, if notified of violations, does not correct them.

What are a Tenant's Rights and Remedies?

The following is a summary only. Always talk to a lawyer before taking action.

The property owner may not increase the rent or evict tenants because they request an inspection or report a violation, or because the owner is required to remove lead paint hazards to bring the dwelling up to state sanitary code standards. (M.G.L.c. 186, s18)

If the property owner does not correct the violation by the seventh day after notification of the violation, the tenant may use up to four months' rent to correct the violation. (M.G.L.c. 111, s127L)

The tenant or the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program may ask the District Court to appoint a receiver to use the rent money to correct the violation. (M.G.L.c. 111, ss127C to 127J)

Until the lead violation is corrected, the tenant may defend nonpayment of rent because the violation reduces the fair value of the apartment. (M.G.L.c. 239, s8A)

A landlord cannot refuse to rent to a family because of lead hazards. If that has happened to you, you can file a complaint with:

727-3990 Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)

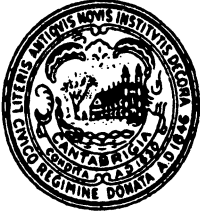
565-5327 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Office

How Does the Law Affect Home Buyers?

Although the CLPPP and local boards of health are not required to do inspections for property transfers, the law requires a property buyer to remove lead paint if a child under six lives or will live in the property. The property transfer requirement encourages the deleading of property when it is vacant, which is the safest time to delead.

Home buyers who hire a private inspector should get a contract that guarantees that the inspection will conform to state regulations. The contract should state that:

- the inspector will properly fill out a diagrammatic floor plan
- all door, wall, and window parts will be tested and listed separately
- inside and outside parts will be tested and listed separately
- the cost of the inspection includes re-testing of each part where lead paint was found and removed.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
498-1349

MELVIN H. CHALFEN, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

January 6, 1986

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: City Council Order #8, 12/8/86

Dear Mr. Healy:

The City of Cambridge through its Department of Health and Hospitals conducts lead based paint inspections of residential premises. The premises are those where a child or children under the age of six years are living. The inspections are initiated by requests from a parent or guardian of such a child. The inspections are also initiated by notification from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program of The Massachusetts Department of Public Health. That notification occurs when laboratory analysis of a child's blood has determined that the child's blood lead level is elevated above current normal standards. This Prevention Program, which operates from the State Laboratory Institute in Boston, specifically analyzes blood samples sent to it from primary health care facilities and from physicians.

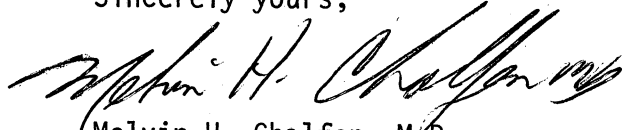
The Cambridge Department also inspects day-care centers and residences on request from residence owners.

The Department does not sponsor a deleading or paint removal program. The Department does work closely with Just-A-Start, which operates a limited deleading program in defined areas of the city for residential owners who meet Just-A-Start's income guidelines. Upon request, the Department makes available a listing of deleading companies which work in the Cambridge area. Contracting any work is the responsibility of the residential owner.

Our Health Department inspectors schedule daily visits to deleading sites to ensure that two objectives are being met: proper removal of the lead-based paint in question and protection of occupant and worker health and safety in the deleading process. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program issued a written Lead Advisory with a publication date of August 1986, to assist residential owners and occupants in meeting individual obligations and responsibilities during the deleading process. This document was made available to the Department of Health and Hospitals in mid November 1986. Prior to this time the substance of the document was communicated to the owner, occupant and deleader on a verbal basis by inspectors. It is anticipated that the receipt of this written statement of responsibilities and safe practices by the affected parties will encourage their realization. Though this document is free upon request from the state program, we have found it to be in short supply. We make every effort to reproduce it as needed. A copy is enclosed for your information.

If a prospective tenant with children thinks he/she has been refused housing because of the presence of lead-based paint in a dwelling unit, that person(s) would be advised to contact the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), the Fair Housing Office of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and/or public or private legal counsel.

Sincerely yours,



Melvin H. Chalfen, M.D.
Commissioner

MHC:vls

Enclosures: Lead Poisoning: Facts and Guidelines
Lead Advisory
What Is the Massachusetts Lead Law and How
Does It Work?
List of contractors for deleading services



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOSPITAL AND WELFARE
1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Telephone 498-1000

November, 1985

This is a list of contractors in this area who we have learned perform deleading services. We cannot recommend any single person, or firm.

If you are interested in obtaining the services of a deleading contractor, we suggest you call them and ask for references on past deleading jobs, check their references and contract with the deleader of your choice. For your protection we suggest that your contract specify that all work will meet state standards and that final payment will be made upon the local health department's approval of the deleading.

This list is intended only as a reference point and in no way constitutes a recommendation or advertisement.

Budget Delead Co.
124 Glenville Avenue
Allston, MA 02134
Sam Touch - 787-3661

King & King Delead
24 Mora Street
Dorchester, MA 02124
Frank King - 436-4885

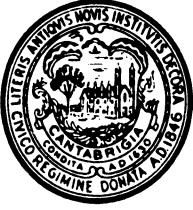
Grogan Deleading Co., Inc.
22 Milton Hill Road
Milton, MA 02186
696-5508 - 986-8208

Peter Ryan
132 Palmer Street
Quincy, MA 02169
472-7919

Industries
643A Tremont Street #217
Boston, MA 02118
John Vega - 617-282-3547

Safety First DeLead
126 Winthrop Street
Taunton, MA 02780
John Eastman - 823-8730
David Green - 995-7028

CONTRACTORS GENERALLY CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN 6:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

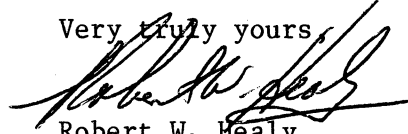
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 26, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 5, I have enclosed a copy of a report from Melvin Chalfen, M.D. Commissioner of Health and Hospitals outlining the City's lead poisoning prevention programs.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: report from Melvin Chalfen, M.D., Commissioner of Health & Hospitals, outlining the City's lead poisoning prevention programs.

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In City Council,

January 26, 1987

Placed on file