



Did you know lead paint is still in millions of homes?

The good news is that simple steps like keeping your home clean and well-maintained will go a long way in preventing lead exposure. Many homes built before 1978 still have lead-based paint. You can lower the chances of exposure to lead in your home by taking these steps:

- Inspect and maintain all painted surfaces to prevent paint deterioration
- Address water damage quickly and completely
- Keep your home clean and dust-free
- Wipe down around painted areas where friction can generate dust, such as doors, windows, and drawers
- Use only cold water to prepare food and drinks
- Flush water outlets used for drinking or food preparation
- Clean debris out of outlet screens or faucet aerators on a regular basis
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys often
- Teach children to wipe and remove shoes and wash hands after playing outdoors
- Ensure that your family members eat well-balanced meals. Children with healthy diets absorb less lead.
- If you are having home renovation, repairs, or painting done, make sure your contractor is Lead-Safe Certified.

Testing your home's drinking water is the only way to confirm if lead is present. Most water systems test for lead at a certain number of homes as a regular part of water monitoring. These tests give a system-wide picture of whether or not corrosion is being controlled but do not reflect conditions at each home served by that water system. Since each home has different plumbing pipes and materials, test results are likely to be different for each home.

You may want to test your water if your home has lead pipes (lead is a dull gray metal that is soft enough to be easily scratched with a house key), or your non-plastic plumbing was installed before 1986.

For more information visit:

www.epa.gov/lead or call 1-877-378-5457

