How can I protect my family from lead?

**Do:** Wet mop floors
**Do:** Wet wipe window sills
**Do:** Vacuum using high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter
**Do:** Wash all surfaces often
**Do:** Remove shoes or wipe them on a doormat before going inside
**Do:** Wash your child’s hands often, especially before eating and sleeping
**Do:** If you work with lead, shower and change your clothes and shoes before going home or getting into your car
**Do:** Wash your clothes separately from the family laundry if you work with lead
**Do:** Cover bare soil with ground cover or grass

**Don’t:** Perform renovations, such as dry scraping or sanding painted surfaces, unless the area has been tested and does not contain lead
**Don’t:** Allow your child to chew on painted surfaces or eat paint chips
**Don’t:** Use glazed pots and dishes that are handmade, antique, damaged, or brightly colored in orange, red, or yellow
**Don’t:** Use glazed pots or dishes that were purchased from flea markets or street vendors

For more information, call 1-800-588-1248 or visit our website at www.dshs.texas.gov/lead.
How can lead affect my child’s health?

- Lead poisoning can affect your child’s speech and hearing, and lead to behavioral problems.
- Lead poisoning can affect their ability to learn and pay attention.
- All children in the household should be tested if anyone in the family has an elevated blood lead level.
- If you are pregnant, lead can hurt your baby.

How can lead enter my child’s body?

- Lead poisoning is caused by swallowing lead or breathing lead dust.
- This is because children often put objects and fingers in their mouths.

Where can lead be found?

**Lead in Homes Built Before 1978**
Lead-based paint is the most widespread source of lead exposure to young children.

- Doorways, fences, and windows
  - Opening and closing doors and windows can rub away paint and create lead dust
- Paint on Porches and Fences
- Soil in the yard, playgrounds or gardens near painted buildings

**Lead at Work**
Common jobs where lead is found include:

- Painting, remodeling, renovation or demolition work
- Radiator or battery repair
- Firing ranges
- Soldering or welding
- Foundries and scrap metal operations

**Lead Imported from other Countries**
These following products often have lead:

- Home remedies (bright orange, yellow, or white powders) such as Greta, Azarcon, Paylooah, or Liga
- Imported spices
- Imported candies, especially candies from Mexico made with tamarind fruit
- Pots and dishes that are old, handmade, or made outside of the United States
- Pottery (including Mexican bean pots), ceramics and crystal

Ask your doctor if you should get a blood test for lead

Ask your employer to tell you if you work with lead.