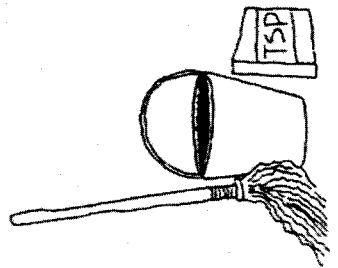




Lead in Dust and Dirt

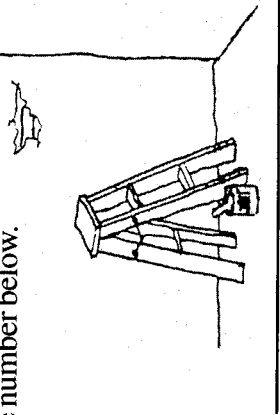
In older homes, lead is often found in the house dust and in the ground around the house. The lead can affect children as they crawl and play on the floor and in the yard, or as they put toys, pacifiers, and even their hands into their mouths.

- Wash your child's hands frequently, especially before you give the child food.
- Mop your floors at least once a week.
- Clean window sills and window wells with a damp cloth.



Removing Old Paint

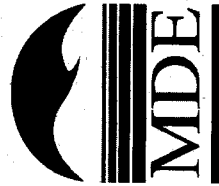
If the lead paint in your home is in poor shape, it needs to be taken off, and your home needs new paint. Removing lead paint is dangerous. You should hire trained workers to do this. For more information on qualified lead-removal specialists, call the Maryland Department of the Environment, at the number below.



For more information on lead poisoning prevention, contact the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning.



www.leadSAFE.org (410) 534-6447 or (800) 370-5323



Maryland Department of the Environment
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 630

Baltimore, MD 21230-1719

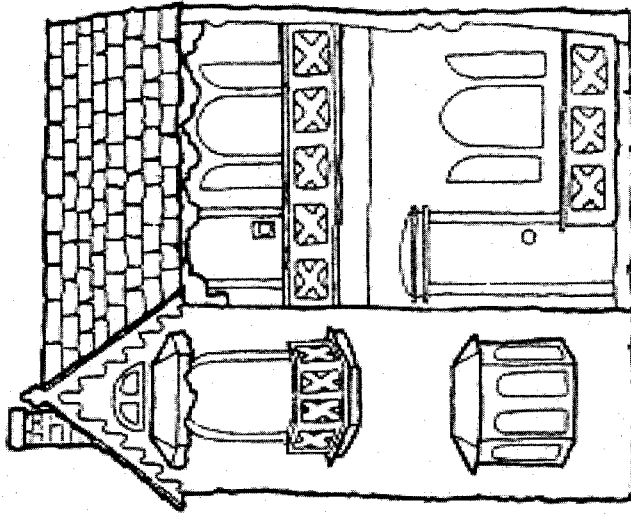
www.mde.state.md.us

410-537-3859

1-800-776-2706 (toll free in Maryland)

TTY Users 1-800-735-2258

KEEP YOUR HOME LEAD-SAFE



Maryland Department of the Environment



Printed on recycled paper.

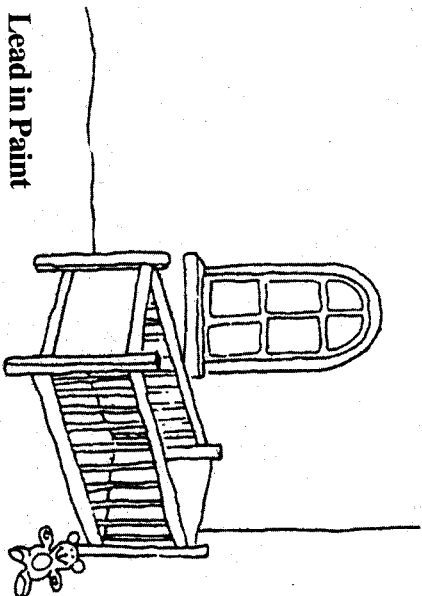
KEEP YOUR HOME LEAD-SAFE

Lead is very useful.

Lead has been used in paint, gas for cars, weights, solder, pottery, and many other products.

Lead is also a poison.

Lead can harm anyone who swallows or breathes it. A pregnant woman can pass lead from her blood to her unborn baby. A child who is lead poisoned finds it hard to learn and may not behave well. Lead is a special danger for children under six years old. It can damage the brain, nerves, blood, and other parts of the body.



Lead in Paint

Before 1950, many houses, furniture, and old toys were painted with lead paint. In an old house, painted windows and porches are special hazards. Old lead paint which is flaking, turning to dust, chipping, or peeling is very dangerous for small children. The old paint gets into the dust all around the house. Small children put almost anything in their mouths! Be sure to keep them away from things which may have lead paint or dust.

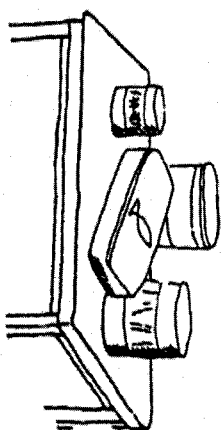
Lead in Food

Lead can get into food. It is sometimes found in cans. To be safe:

- NEVER heat or cook food in its can.
- NEVER store food in a can which has been opened.

Lead is sometimes found in pottery and dishes which come to the United States from other countries. To be safe:

- DO NOT use dishes which you think may have lead.

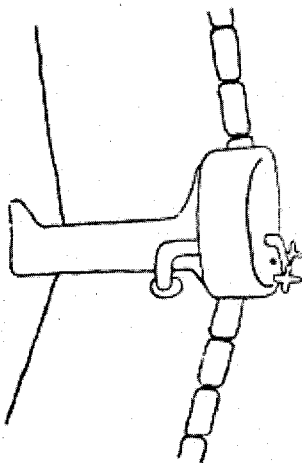


Keep Your Child Lead-Safe

- Know WHERE to look for lead in your home.
- Talk to your child's doctor or clinic about doing a blood test to check for lead.
- Feed your child healthy foods such as fish, milk, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Iron, calcium, and vitamin C help fight lead poisoning.
- Clean up dust in your house, on toys, and on your child's hands.

Lead In Water

Lead has often been used in plumbing. Lead solder was used to connect most copper pipes. In 1986, state law banned its use. Because lead solder can still be bought, some plumbers and handymen may have used it.



You are most likely to have lead in your water

IF:

- Your plumbing was installed before 1986, and
- Your water comes from a private well or a small water company which has corrosive (acidic) water.

If you think you have lead in your water, there are two easy things you can do:

1. Let the water run until cold before using it for drinking or making baby formula or juice.
2. Never use water from the HOT WATER TAP for cooking or drinking. Hot water is more likely to pick up lead from your plumbing.