

PROTECT YOUR PREGNANCY

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What to look for in your home

Lead-based paint is generally not a hazard if the painted surface is in good condition.

Lead-based paint is dangerous if the painted surface is peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking. Paint chips and dust from lead-based paint can get on surfaces that children touch or crawl on. Just by placing their hands in their mouths, children can be exposed to the hazards of lead poisoning. It only takes a very small amount of lead-based paint dust to poison a child.

In an older home, common areas to check are:

- Windows and windowsills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings and banisters
- Floors, because some varnishes are known to contain lead

Dust containing lead can be created when painted surfaces rub together, such as when windows, doors or drawers are opened and closed, or by walking on stair treads.

- Check for dust buildup around hinges, window frames and drawers.

Lead dust can also be tracked into the home from soil outside.

- Check porches and fences for deteriorating paint that may be lead-based.

Painted toys and furniture

- Painted toys and furniture made before 1978 may be painted with lead-based paint. Do not let children chew on any cribs, playpens or older painted toys. Consider the condition of any furniture you may be refinishing for your children's rooms. More recently, imported toys have been recalled because of high levels of lead. Visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission site .

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IN YOUR HOME

