

Archdiocese of Seattle

Safety Training 2023



Archdiocese of Seattle

Lead



What is Lead?

- Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust.
- While it has some beneficial uses, it can be toxic to humans and animals causing of health effects.



Where is Lead in Buildings

Primarily and Potentially:

- Interior and exterior paint
- Painted objects
- Drinking water



Adult Health Hazards of Lead

Lead is hazardous to your health if it gets in your body. Here's what it can cause:

Headaches, tiredness and insomnia



Loss of appetite and stomach pain

Pain, weakness or twitching in your muscles

Reduced sex drive and birth defects

Kidney damage

Permanent brain and nerve damage



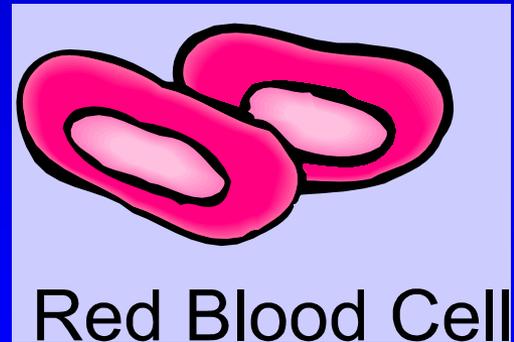
Health Hazards of Lead

Is there a safe amount of lead?

There is no real safe amount of lead, but there are levels that cannot be legally exceeded. This is called the "permissible exposure limit" or **PEL**.

In the air: **no more than 50 micrograms per cubic meter**

In your blood: **no more than 40 micrograms per deciliter**.



Both these limits are in the L&I regulations on lead.



Risk to Children

- Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in:
 - Behavior and learning problems
 - Lower IQ and Hyperactivity
 - Slowed growth
 - Hearing Problems
 - Anemia
- In rare cases, ingestion of lead can cause seizures, coma and even death.



Hazard to Children

Effects on Reproduction

- Lead is especially harmful to the fetus in a pregnant woman.



- Lead is also harmful to men or women trying to have children.



Who is at Risk

Effects of Lead on Children

Children are very susceptible to effects of lead.

The amount that can harm them is much less than adults.

It is important not to take any lead dust home on your clothing.



How can lead get in your body?

You can get lead into your body by:

Inhaling lead dust or lead spray paint,



Inhaling lead fumes from welding or burning lead paint,



Swallowing lead dust on your hands from eating, drinking or smoking.



Lead in Drinking Water

- How does lead get into drinking water?
- Should one test for lead in drinking water?
- If needed, contact Property and Construction for assistance and guidance

