



#49 in a series of Health Bulletins on issues of pressing interest to all New Yorkers

Protect Your Child From Lead Poisoning



**Landlords MUST fix peeling lead paint.
If they don't, call 311.**



• Available in Spanish and Chinese: call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health
• Disponible en español: llame al 311 o visite nyc.gov/health
• 需要中文服務 - 可電 311 或造訪網址: nyc.gov/health

Keep Your Child Away From Lead

- Peeling lead paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning in young children.
- Children with lead poisoning may develop health, learning and behavioral problems.
- Young children ages 6 months to 3 years are the most at risk.
- Lead dust from peeling paint can land on window sills, floors and toys. When children play and put their hands and toys in their mouths, they may swallow lead dust.

Children can also be exposed to lead from:

- Items from other countries, such as:
 - Health remedies.
 - Candies, spices and other foods.
 - Cosmetics.
 - Metal or painted toys and jewelry.
- Clay pots and dishes used for cooking, serving or storing food.
- Clothes and tools used by household members in jobs or hobbies that involve lead, such as construction.



Make Sure Your Child Gets a Blood Lead Test

- Doctors must test all children for lead poisoning at ages 1 and 2. Ask your doctor about testing older children.
- Blood lead tests are covered by public and private health insurance. For information about getting a blood lead test, call 311.

More Ways to Protect Your Child

- Keep children away from peeling paint and home repairs or renovations. Call 311 to find out about doing home repair work safely.
- Wash floors, window sills, toys and pacifiers often.
- Use *cold* tap water for making baby formula, drinking and cooking. Let the cold water run for a couple of minutes before using it.
- Make sure there is no peeling paint in places where children regularly visit, such as the homes of relatives or babysitters, day-care centers and schools. Call 311 to report peeling paint in a day-care center or school.
- Wash children's hands, especially before eating.

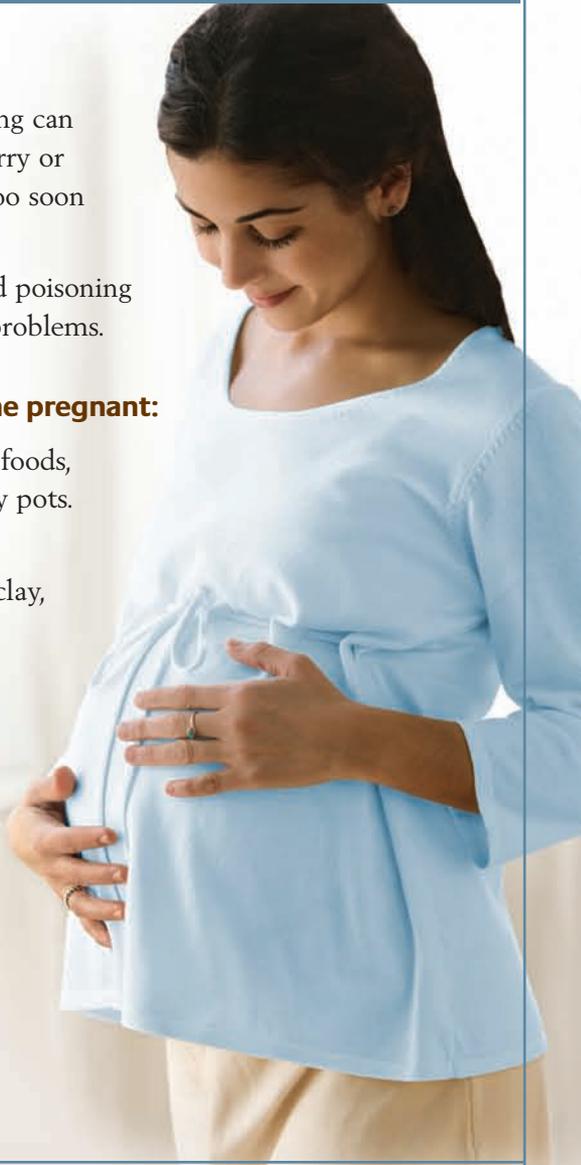


Lead in Pregnancy

- Pregnant women with lead poisoning can develop high blood pressure, miscarry or give birth to babies that are born too soon or too small.
- Children born to mothers with lead poisoning may have learning and behavioral problems.

If you are pregnant or may become pregnant:

- Avoid using imported spices, snack foods, health remedies, cosmetics, and clay pots. They may contain lead.
- Never eat non-food items such as clay, pottery, soil or paint chips.
- At your first prenatal visit, your doctor should ask about your exposure to lead.
- Get a blood lead test if you think you have been exposed to lead or if you have had lead poisoning in the past.



More Information and Help

- **New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:** nyc.gov/health or call 311
- **New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development:** nyc.gov/hpd or call 311
- **New York City Department of Environmental Protection:** nyc.gov/dep or call 311
- **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** www.cdc.gov/lead
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:** www.hud.gov/lead
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** www.epa.gov/lead



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FIX PEELING LEAD PAINT

What Landlords Must Do

In New York City, the law requires landlords to inspect and fix lead paint hazards – *at no cost to tenants*. The law applies to your apartment if:

- You live in a building built before 1960 (or between 1960 and 1978 if the owner knows the building has lead paint), **and**
- The building has 3 or more apartments, **and**
- A child under the age of 6 lives with you.

If the law applies to your apartment, your landlord must:

- **Send you an Annual Notice** asking if a child under the age of 6 lives with you.
- **Inspect your apartment** once a year for lead paint hazards if a child under the age of 6 lives with you.
- **Use safe work practices** to fix lead paint hazards and do renovation work.
- **Repair lead paint hazards** *before* you move in.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a purple t-shirt and green cargo pants, is smiling and holding a large grey sign with both hands above his head. The sign has white text that reads: "Never Dry-Scrape or Dry-Sand Lead Paint!".

Never Dry-Scrape
or Dry-Sand
Lead Paint!

What Tenants Should Do

If your apartment is covered by the law (see above):

- **Fill out and return the Annual Notice** from your landlord asking if a child under the age of 6 lives with you. If you don't get the Annual Notice, call 311.
- **If you have a new baby,** or a child under age 6 comes to live with you, *tell your landlord in writing.*
- **Call 311 if your landlord does not fix peeling paint.** Ask for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development.
- **Call 311 if you think repair work is being done unsafely.** Ask for the Department of Health.
- **Call 311 if you live in a 1- or 2-family house with peeling paint and have a child under age 6.** Ask for the Department of Health.

Call 311 for a free copy of

"Fix Lead Paint Hazards: What Landlords Must Do, and Every Tenant Should Know"

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NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

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Fix Peeling Lead Paint!

**DIAL
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