

Where Is Lead?

Although paint no longer contains large amounts of lead there are still many living conditions with lead based paint on the walls. If lead based paint is in good condition, it normally is not a hazard. When paint peels, chips or cracks and it is a lead based paint it is a hazardous condition that needs to be taken care of by a professional. Places like windows or door areas, fencing, porches and balconies, can often wear out more easily. Paint chips are not that easy to see, but small pieces of lead based paint can be a very serious health risk. Lead is also often found in soil and can be dangerous when children play in soil, as well as when someone brings the soil into their home on their shoes or other clothing. By getting your home checked for lead you could prevent potential lead hazards as well as the serious health complications that accompany it.

When lead is in water it is hard to determine because it cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted.

Because lead is not able to dissolve in water or biodegrade, dissipate, decay or burn this makes lead an extremely harmful hazard. Most sources of lead in the environment are the result of human activity despite the fact that lead is a naturally occurring substance. If someone in the household works in an environment that has lead, that individual should wash clothing separate from other household members and shower immediately from returning home from work. Older toys and furniture may contain lead, and any food or beverage stored in lead crystal, pottery, or porcelain. Candy wrappers and food packaging containing lead are of particular concern.