

Young children put everything in their mouths.

It's how they explore the world.

Be wary of the invisible lead dust that can cover floors, porches, window sills, toys, and bare soil. It's easy for a child to swallow.



What happens when a child is exposed to lead?

With every exposure, lead can build up in a child's developing body. As lead builds up, it can cause:

- Lower IQ and learning difficulties.
- Trouble with attention, behavior, and impulse control.
- Delayed speech and language.
- Slowed growth and development.
- Chronic health problems in adulthood.

Understand common sources of lead

In Wisconsin, most children are lead poisoned through exposure to lead-based paint and lead dust, but lead can be found in many places.

Paint and dust - Buildings constructed before 1978 may contain lead paint. When lead paint breaks down over time, it turns into dangerous lead dust.

Pipes and faucets - Buildings may contain leaded pipes or fixtures or may be connected to a lead lateral.

Soil and playgrounds - Lead from paint or leaded gasoline can settle into bare soil, where it can stay for decades. Old playground equipment may also be covered in lead paint.

Toys and imported products - Imported or antique children's toys may contain lead. Be on the lookout for product recalls.



For more information on sources of lead, scan the QR code or visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/sources.htm



Look out for Lead!

Guidance for child care providers

Every year, thousands of Wisconsin children are poisoned by lead.

Children under age 6 are most vulnerable to lead poisoning.

In child care centers, look out for lead in:

- Chipping and peeling paint
- Dust
- Pipes and water faucets
- Soil and playgrounds
- Toys and pottery

Simple actions for a lead-safe space

Chipping, peeling paint and lead dust are two of the biggest causes of lead poisoning. A clean space is key to reducing exposures.

Do:

- Do use disposable wet wipes to clean floors, windows, and exposed surfaces.
- Do use a HEPA vacuum to clean areas that may have lead dust.
- Do wash toys, formula bottles, and high-touch surfaces often.



Don't:

- Don't sweep or dust. This can spread lead dust into the air.
- Don't ignore paint chips or built-up dust in windows. These are common places for children to be exposed.
- Don't track dirt into the facility.

Regulations for child care centers:

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) oversees the licensing and certification rules for regulated child care facilities. Wis. Admin. Code § DCF 202, 250-252 sets welfare and safety standards for these centers.

Licensing rule	Certification rule
Regulations for chipping and peeling paint	
"The premises shall have no flaking or deteriorating paint on exterior or interior surfaces in areas accessible to children. Lead-based paint or other toxic finishing material may not be used on any surface on the premises."	"The premises shall have no flaking, chipping, peeling, or deteriorating paint on exterior or interior surfaces in areas accessible to children."
Regulations for recalled products, indoor and outdoor hazards	
"The center's indoor and outdoor child care space shall be free of hazards including any recalled products."	"The indoor and outdoor areas of the home shall be free of hazards, including any recalled products."

The **Lead-Safe Renovation Rule**, Wis. Admin. Code, ch DHS 162, protects children from the dangers of lead dust during renovation.

If your child care center is located in a building constructed prior to 1978, no matter if you rent or own, it is regulated by this rule. This means that, if you plan to do any work that disturbs paint, you are required to either:

- Be a certified lead-safe company with a certified lead-safe renovator.
- Hire a lead-safe company that employs a certified lead-safe renovator.