



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Program

Fall 2013

HEALTH BEAT

Lead Hazards in Some Holiday Toys

The East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Program would like to remind parents that some toys may contain lead in the paint. The following article written by the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) shares some information on the toys that are selling this year.



Parents should be aware of potential lead hazards associated with some holiday toys and toy jewelry. Review these important facts to keep your loved ones safe this holiday season.

The holiday season is here, and that means many children will be given toys as gifts. While new toys are a holiday tradition, parents should be aware of potential lead hazards associated with toys, including toy jewelry. Review these important facts to keep your children safe this holiday season.

Lead is invisible to the naked eye and has no smell. Children may be exposed to it from consumer products through normal handling of the product. They often place toys and other objects, as well as their fingers that have touched these objects, in their mouth, which exposes them to lead paint or dust.

Lead in Toys

Toys that have been made in other countries and then imported into the United States, or antique toys or collectibles passed down through generations, often contain lead that puts children at risk for such exposure. To reduce these risks, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issues recalls of toys that could potentially expose children to lead. Learn more at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>.



Lead may be used in two aspects of toy manufacturing.



Paint: Lead may be in the paint on toys. It was banned in house paint, on products marketed to children, and in dishes and cookware in the United States in 1978. However, lead is still widely used in other countries and therefore can be found on imported toys. Lead may also be found on toys made in the United States before the ban.

Plastic: While regulated, the use of lead in plastics has not been banned in the United States. It softens and stabilizes the plastic; however, when the plastic is exposed to substances such as sunlight, air, and detergents, the plastic breaks down and may form a lead dust.

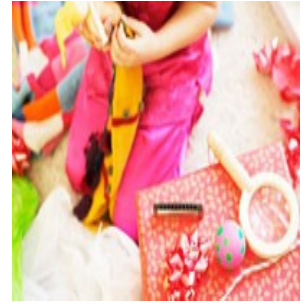
How can I test a toy for lead?

Only a certified laboratory can accurately test a toy for lead. Although do-it-yourself kits are available, they do not indicate how much lead is present, and their reliability at detecting low levels of lead has not been determined.

Lead In Toy Jewelry

If jewelry containing lead is swallowed or put in a child's mouth, the child can be poisoned.

What should I do if I believe my child has put lead jewelry in their mouth? See your health care provider. He or she can perform a blood lead test to see whether your child has been exposed to lead and recommend treatment if necessary. Most children with elevated lead levels do not have any symptoms. However, there is no safe level of lead in blood. As blood-lead levels increase, a larger effect on children's learning and behavior will occur. A blood-lead test is the only way to know if your child has an elevated lead level. **(You can have your child tested through the East Helena Lead Education Program)**



What are the effects of wearing toy jewelry?

Just wearing toy jewelry that contains lead will not cause your child to have a high level of lead in their blood. However, small children often put things in their mouth. You should make sure that all children in your household do not have access to jewelry or other items that may contain lead.

Recall Information

The CPSC asks parents to search for possible recalls of toys their children have and take the toys away immediately if they have been recalled. Parents should search their children's toys for metal jewelry and throw it away. Photos and descriptions of recalled toys and toy jewelry are available on the [CPSC](#) Web site. CPSC can be contacted also by telephone at 1-800-638-2772.

Frequently Requested

Phone Numbers & Websites:

East Helena Lead Program:

406-457-8583

Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department
and Cooperative Health Center:

406-443-2584

www.lewisandclarkhealth.org

City of East Helena:

406-227-5321

www.easthelenamt.us

EPA: 406-457-5000

www2.epa.gov/lead

MT Dept. of Environmental Quality:

406-444-2544

www.deq.mt.gov

Consumer Product Safety Commission:

800-638-2772

www.cpsc.gov

EPA Hires New Contractors for the East Helena Superfund Site Project

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to introduce Pacific Western Technologies, Ltd. (PWT), a contractor supporting the EPA at Operable Unit 2, which includes the residential soils and undeveloped lands of the East Helena Superfund Site. PWT is an environmental services firm based in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, with a satellite office in Helena. It are involved in the remediation of multiple Superfund sites around Montana, including sites in Neihart, Black Eagle, Lockwood, and Columbus.

At the East Helena Superfund Site, PWT is tasked with the preparation of the Remedial Design and the implementation of the Remedial Action. The Remedial Design process involves the development of plans and specifications, general provisions, and special requirements necessary to put into action the cleanup remedy as defined in the Record of Decision. The Remedial Design is then implemented during Remedial Action, which includes construction of the remedy, necessary operation and maintenance, performance monitoring, and any other special requirements.

Within the next year, PWT is planning to complete residential soil sampling at several previously unsampled properties to determine the need for soil remediation, or cleanup, of contaminated soils at those properties. If necessary, remediation is expected to occur in 2014 and 2015. If any property owners in the East Helena area would like to request that their properties be sampled, please contact the Lewis and Clark County Lead Education and Abatement Program at 406-457-8583 to start the process. Greg Hayes, the project manager for PWT, can be reached with any other questions or concerns at greg.hayes@pwt.com or 406-457-5495.

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