



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
**Health Department**

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LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM

**NEW MOMS IN THE EAST HELENA AREA**

The Lead Education and Abatement Program offers FREE baby packets to all new moms in the East Helena area. The baby packet includes a sippy cup, baby bib, 7.5 oz. liquid soap and cleaning sponges, outlet covers, refrigerator magnet, note pads, and brochures on how to live safely around lead.

As you may already know, ASARCO operated a lead smelter in East Helena for over 100 years. During that time, lead and arsenic were deposited in soils in and around the East Helena area. Due to this contamination, East Helena was designated a Superfund site in 1984. Since then, the smelter has shut down and many of the yards have had their soils replaced (remediated). However, there are some areas that still contain lead.

The reason you should know about this is that children under 6 and pregnant women are more susceptible to the harmful effects of lead than other people. Infants and young children's growing bodies absorb more lead and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead than adults are. Women with a high lead level in their system prior to or during pregnancy are also at risk.

The East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Program (LEAP) works to prevent exposure and educate people about safe strategies for living around lead. In addition to the free baby packets, **we also offer free environmental assessments in homes, including sampling of yard soil, interior dust, drinking water, and lead-based paint in order to identify potential sources of and pathways for lead exposure.**

If you are moving to the East Helena area, or if you already live there, we can tell you if your yard soil has been tested or replaced. If it hasn't been remediated, we can tell you if your yard qualifies for remediation.

If you would like to be contacted and receive the free Baby Packet as well as any of the other free services, please call Debb or Jan at **457-8583**. Remember, there is no cost to you for these services.

*The mission of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents.*