



Safeguarding Alert!

Important information about Lead:

INDIVIDUALS WITH PICA BEHAVIOR (INGESTING OF NON-FOOD ITEMS OR SUBSTANCES) AND ALL CHILDREN ARE AT RISK FOR ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS DUE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR INGESTION OF LEAD-BASED PAINT OR PAINT CHIPS. ELEVATED LEAD LEVELS CAN CAUSE:

HEART ATTACKS

STROKES

ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

BEHAVIOR DISORDERS

ANEMIA

Lead-based paint has not been distributed for general use since 1980. Prior to that time, however, it was commonly used. **It is impossible to tell any difference visually between lead and non-lead paint. If a site existed prior to 1980, there may be lead-based paint which is a potential hazard to individuals.**

It is important to identify those individuals with pica behavior. It is recommended that for individuals with pica behavior and children under the age of six years, blood tests be conducted to determine lead levels. The frequency of testing is to be determined by a physician, however, the following guidelines are recommended by the New York State Department of Health:

- If the lead level is 10-20 ug/dl a blood test should be drawn every three months.
- If the lead level is 50-60 ug/dl, hospitalization is recommended for chelation (chelation is administering medications which are capable of bonding to the lead, enhancing urinary and fecal excretion, which will lower the lead levels in the person's blood).
- If one person in a facility has elevated blood lead levels, an inspection of the facility for lead must be conducted. Test kits are available from hardware stores. Your local Department of Health can conduct an environmental study.
- If technical assistance is needed, the New York State Department of Health Office for Environmental Health should be contacted at (518) 458-6706. In addition, your local Department of Health can be contacted.

MANAGING THE PROBLEM

In ALL cases where lead has been found in the environment, it is essential to confer with trained lead abatement professionals to determine the best course of action. Possible remedies for surfaces identified as containing lead-based paint include:



Enclosure

Encapsulation

Replacement

Removal

Contact your local health department for additional information or for help in identifying qualified contractors experienced in addressing the presence of lead in the environment.



Statewide Committee on Incident Review (SCIR)

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