

# LEAD IN YOUR HOME



Canada <sup>1-8</sup>



Health  
Canada

Santé  
Canada



## **CMHC—Home to Canadians**

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is home to Canadians. In everything we do, we help Canadians live in safe, secure homes.

As the Government of Canada's national housing agency, we play a major role in Canada's housing industry. CMHC develops new ways to finance home purchases. We encourage innovation in housing design and technology. Our mortgage loan insurance helps Canadians realize their dreams of owning a home.

Canadians benefit from our work with public, private and not-for-profit partners to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of housing everywhere in Canada.

CMHC assistance helps low-income and older Canadians, people with disabilities and Aboriginals live in decent, affordable homes. We create jobs for Canadians with products and services that help the housing industry export its knowledge and skills to other countries.

CMHC's leading-edge research improves the quality and affordability of housing. To help Canadians benefit from our housing expertise and make informed decisions, CMHC has become Canada's largest publisher of housing information. We also have Canada's most comprehensive selection of information about homes and housing.

Canadians can easily access our information through retail outlets and CMHC's regional offices.

You can also reach us by phone at  
    | 800 668-2642 (outside Canada, 613 748-2003)  
by fax at  
    613 748-4069

To reach us online, visit our home page at [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation supports the Government of Canada policy on access to information for people with disabilities. If you wish to obtain this publication in alternative formats, call 1 800 668-2642.

# LEAD IN YOUR HOME

CMHC offers a wide range of housing-related information. For details, contact your local CMHC office or call 1-800-668-2642.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Le plomb dans votre maison 61320.

Canada

This booklet was developed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Health Canada.

ISBN 0-662-25399-X  
Cat. no. NH15-168/1997E

© 1984, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
Revised and reprinted: 1997, 2003, 2004

Printed in Canada  
Produced by CMHC

# PART 1: INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS THIS BOOKLET ABOUT?

This booklet, prepared by Health Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, was written to provide readers with information about the effects of lead in and around the home. The truth is, lead can be harmful to your family's health. Infants, young children, pregnant women and the developing fetus are especially at risk. This booklet:

- describes the most common sources of household lead;
- provides information regarding lead testing;
- outlines the various options available to those who want to reduce or remove the harmful effects of household lead;
- provides how-to information and safety tips for many of the options described;
- offers many easy, practical ways to minimize the amount of lead in and around your home; and
- lists resources to contact if you require more information.

## WHO SHOULD READ THIS BOOKLET?

- Do you live in a home built between 1960 and 1980 that you plan to renovate, that is currently being renovated, or that has recently been renovated?
- Do you live in a home built before 1960 that has chipped, cracked or peeling paint accessible to pre-school aged children?
- Was the plumbing in your home installed before 1960?
- Do you live near a large painted metal structure, (such as a bridge), or near an industry (such as a lead-battery recycling factory) where lead has been used?
- Are you concerned about the effects of household lead?

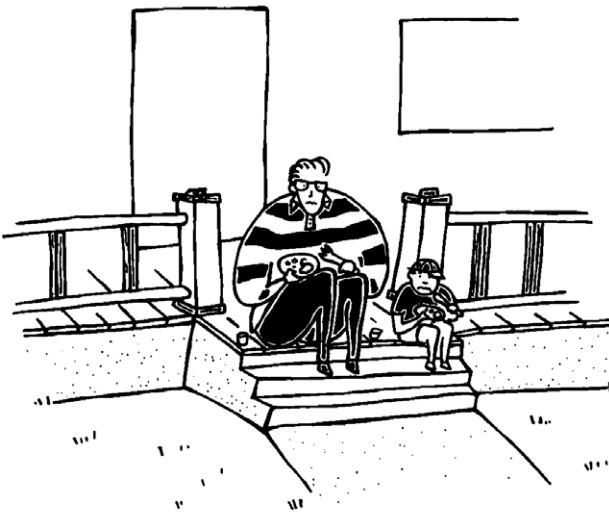
If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, read on!

## WHAT IS LEAD?

Lead is a heavy, soft, bluish-grey metal that occurs naturally in the earth's crust in small amounts. Much higher concentrations are found in lead ores. It can be found everywhere in our environment, not only because it occurs naturally, but also because it is used extensively in modern industry (mining, manufacturing and burning of fossil fuels).

## HOW CAN LEAD AFFECT MY FAMILY'S HEALTH?

Lead and its compounds are useful, but they can be harmful as well. People have known for a long time that exposure to large amounts of lead can cause serious illness or even death. However, scientists now know that exposure to lead can affect the development of a child's brain and nervous system. Such exposure may lead to behavioural problems, learning disabilities or reduced intelligence. The developing fetus and pre-school-aged children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead.



*Infants and children are especially vulnerable to lead due to their developing nervous system, tendency to chew on things, and bodies that more readily absorb lead.*

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF LEAD POISONING?

The symptoms associated with lead poisoning depend on the amount of lead one is exposed to and for how long. Symptoms may include insomnia, irritability, restlessness, poor attention span, loss of memory, headaches, anemia, muscle tremors and stomach cramps.

With frequent exposure to very high doses of lead, damage to the brain and kidneys can occur. As well, high lead levels in the body may impair male fertility and increase the chances of complications during pregnancy, such as miscarriages, stillbirths and premature deliveries. Exposure to low levels of lead is significant for the fetus, infants and young children as it may effect mental development leading to learning problems throughout life.

Lead poisoning isn't always easy to recognize. With low levels of exposure, a person may not have any symptoms at all. Some of the symptoms are typical of many common illnesses. Understandably, many people with lead poisoning assume that their illness is caused by a flu bug. If you or your family are experiencing recurring flu-like symptoms and a lead source is present in your home, you may want to consult your doctor.

Your doctor can order a blood test to determine whether an individual has harmful levels of lead in the body. Eating healthy can help to reduce your body's lead levels.



## WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF LEAD EXPOSURE?

Because lead can be found in trace amounts everywhere in the natural and human environments, you can't avoid it entirely. However, Canadians are exposed to much less lead than they used to be. Current federal and provincial laws restrict the amount of lead that can be contained in commercial products and set limits on the acceptable lead levels in soil, air, water and canned food. One of the most significant steps towards a lead-free environment was the reduction of lead in gasoline in the 1970s and 1980s – by 1990 it was virtually eliminated. Lead is now limited in consumer paints, ceramic glazings, solders used by the food-canning industry, and in plumbing materials.

Lead compounds are widely used in the manufacturing of a variety of materials, some of which are found in and around the home. Their very presence may expose residents to potentially harmful amounts of lead. These potential hazards are in the pages that follow.

# PART 2:

## SOURCES AND SOLUTIONS

### HOW CAN LEAD GET INTO MY HOME? WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Four common sources of lead exposure in and around the home are:

- flakes or dust from old lead-based paint;
- contaminated soil;
- old water pipes; and
- miscellaneous household items (glazed ceramics, and glassware, lead crystal, canned foods, painted wood, coloured inks, costume jewellery and hobby materials).

### LEAD EXPOSURE FROM OLD LEAD-BASED PAINT

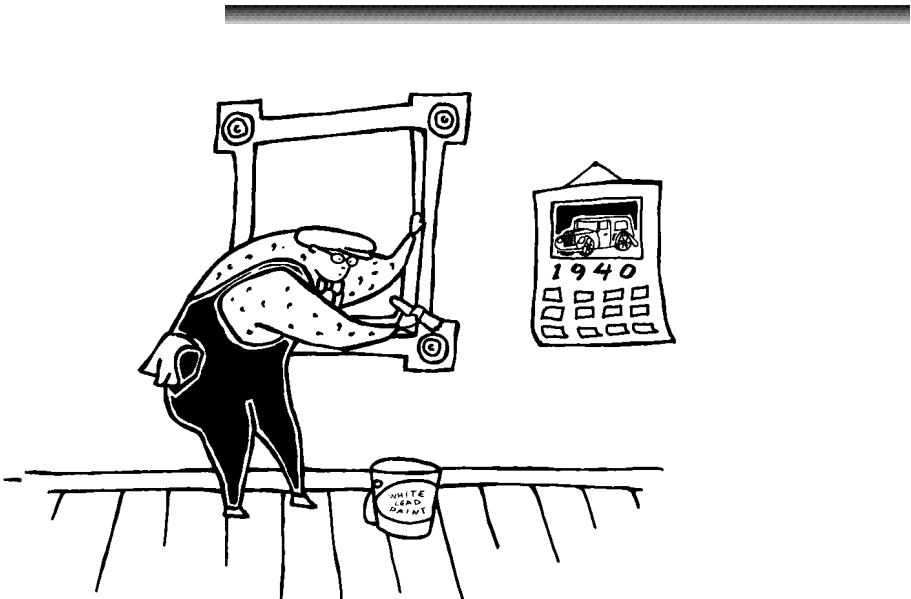
Until the 1960s, lead was used as a pigment in many paints, especially white and pastel shades. Some paints contained as much as 50 percent lead by weight. Other pigments replaced lead in the 1960s, but small amounts were still used in some paints as a sealant or to speed up drying. In 1976, federal government regulations limited the amount of lead in interior paint to 0.5% by weight. Exterior paints can contain more than 0.5% lead by weight, but paint cans have to be labelled with a warning that the paint contains lead and is not to be used on surfaces children can chew. By 1991, Canadian paint manufacturers had voluntarily stopped using lead altogether.

Paint in your home that is more than a few decades old may contain lead. Lead levels vary depending on when the paint was manufactured. If your house was built between 1960 and 1980, the interior or exterior paint may contain small amounts of lead. If it was built before 1960, and surfaces

are covered with several layers of paint, your house undoubtedly contains high levels of lead.

Lead-based paint doesn't pose a danger if it's in good condition, and is not disturbed. However, if the paint is peeling or flaking, then a potentially harmful situation exists. Even friction from opening and closing doors or windows with painted frames can produce paint dust. This dust can get onto children's hands and toys, and from there, into their mouths. Paint chips can easily be swallowed by young children. Ledges and trim that are accessible to teething toddlers should also be cause for concern.

Renovating an older house can expose occupants to lead. Sanding, scraping, or heating lead-based paint can produce large amounts of lead-containing dust or fumes. Even remodelling without sanding or scraping can damage old paint or release old lead-laden dust. Weathered paint on the outside of the house can contaminate gardens and sandboxes. Contaminated soil and sand can then be tracked inside, adding to the lead level indoors.



## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH LEAD-BASED PAINT?

If your home was built before 1960, you should assume that it contains substantial amounts of leaded paint. If you want to know for sure, paint samples can be tested with a home test kit or by a certified laboratory. Home test kits can only tell you whether lead is present in significant amounts. A laboratory analysis is more complete and can therefore produce more exact information about the sample.

Paint samples used in both types of testing must be obtained by either cutting or scraping a surface to produce paint dust. If you'd prefer not to damage the painted surfaces in your home, an environmental engineering consultant may be able to analyze the lead content using an X-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine. XRF analysis is about as accurate as laboratory analysis. However, it is only available in major cities. Refer to Part 3 of this booklet for information on how to contact laboratories and consultants.

## WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Often, the best way to deal with lead-based paint is just to leave it alone. If you disturb the paint by trying to remove it, or by covering it up in some way, you can create a problem that wasn't there before. However, if the paint is deteriorating or is accessible to young children (on a window ledge, for example), you will want to do something about it.

There are four options:

- repair;
- cover;
- replacement; or
- removal.

For any projects dealing with the removal of lead-based paint, be sure to follow the safety rules on pages 10–13.

**Repair:** If the old surface is in good shape, a fresh layer of paint (lead-free this time!) may be all that's required. (If the surface is one that might be chewed by children, repainting might not be adequate.) Any small patches where paint is peeling can be carefully sanded or scraped. Sometimes new paint won't adhere well to old lead-based paint. Washing old walls with a high phosphate solution such as trisodium phosphate (TSP), will help. Rinse walls after washing, and dispose of wash rags.

**Cover:** This means covering the old paint with a more durable material, such as vinyl wallpaper, drywall or panelling, so that it's no longer exposed. Covering it up may be more suitable than repairing (described above) if the surfaces are in poor condition or if young children could mouth, lick or chew them.



Repair and cover are not permanent solutions. The old paint will still be there, and could become a problem if it is exposed again in the future. But these are often the easiest, least expensive, and safest remedies, especially for areas such as walls and ceilings.

**Replacement:** Doors, windows, mouldings, baseboards and other trim can be removed, replaced, and painted. Be careful to minimize disturbing the paint when removing these items. Clean up carefully afterwards.

**Removal:** Paint removal or stripping is potentially the most hazardous way to deal with lead-based paint. Strict safety precautions are required, so you may want to hire professionals, especially if it's a big job. Get quotes from several contractors; avoid those who are not familiar with the safety precautions described on the following pages. Choose a contractor who will do the job safely. Consider specifying the safety rules to be followed in the contract. For example: "any removable woodwork (such as door or window frames) must be professionally stripped outside the home."

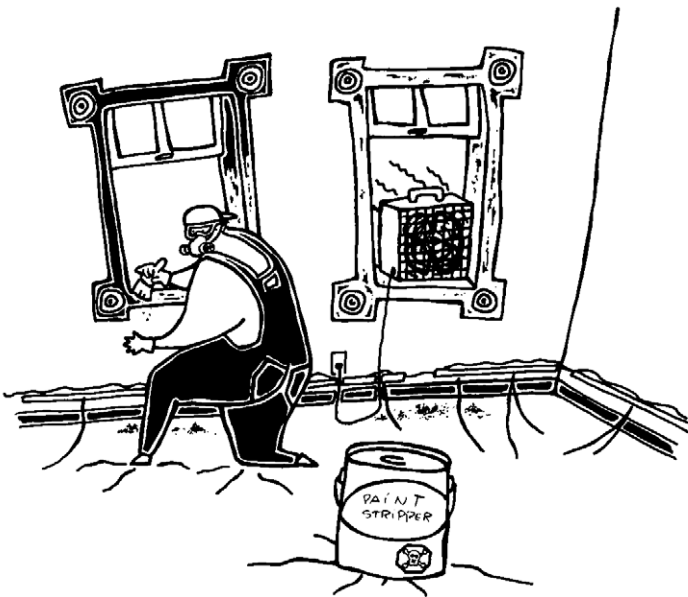
## SAFETY RULES FOR REMOVING LEAD-BASED PAINT

Below are safety rules for removing lead-based paint from walls, ceilings or other structures, or for other work (such as knocking down a wall) that may produce dust containing lead.

**Protect your family:** Women who are pregnant or are trying to become pregnant should never strip paint or be exposed to dust or fumes from paint removal. If paint dust can't be contained, or if the whole house is being renovated, children and pregnant women should live elsewhere until the work is done.

**Protect yourself:** Wear coveralls, goggles, gloves and other protective clothing. Use an appropriate respirator – a paper mask does not provide adequate protection. Consult your local safety equipment dealer or your provincial Department or Ministry of Labour (see Part 3 of this booklet) for advice. If you have heart disease or respiratory problems, consult your doctor before choosing a respirator. Wash your hands whenever you leave the work area. Don't eat, drink or smoke while stripping paint.

**Prepare the area:** Remove drapes, rugs and furniture from the work area. Cover immovable objects with heavy plastic and tape down the edges. Cover the floor with at least two layers of plastic. Seal heating vents. Protect the entrance to the working area with plastic. If working with chemical strippers, use forced ventilation to the exterior.



If you are working outdoors, use drop sheets to catch any paint scrapings. Don't work on windy days. Make sure children and pets stay away from the area. Cover windows and doors with plastic to keep scrapings and dust out of the house.

**Use safe stripping techniques:** Heat, sanding or sandblasting should never be used to remove lead-based paint. Chemical strippers are preferable. However, they may contain other hazardous chemicals. Take precautions when using strippers containing methylene chloride or other solvents. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Keep the area well ventilated (use forced ventilation to the exterior) and wear gloves, goggles and a respirator designed for use with organic solvents.

**Do a daily clean-up:** When you finish work for the day, vacuum the work area thoroughly, preferably with a central vacuum vented to the outside, or with a vacuum cleaner fitted with a special high-efficiency particle accumulation (HEPA) filter. If these aren't available, use a vacuum cleaner with a secondary filter, or one with a partially-filled bag. Don't use a broom or a vacuum cleaner with a new bag – they will spread the dust around rather than pick it up. Put all waste in a secure container marked "Hazardous waste – contains lead."

**Treat work clothes with care:** Remove protective clothing and footwear whenever you leave the work area. Wash work clothes separately from other family laundry, or discard them when you're finished.

**Do a final clean-up:** Let the dust settle for a few hours before doing a final clean-up. (Don't forget the basement, closets, and other "out-of-sight" areas where dust can settle.) Collect all remaining waste, plastic sheets and protective clothing, and discard it in your hazardous



waste container. Vacuum thoroughly. As before, an outside-vented central vacuum, or a unit with a HEPA filter is preferable. Wash all surfaces at least once with a high phosphate detergent or a lead-specific cleaning product. Rinse with clean water and vacuum again.

**Dispose of waste safely:** Lead-based paint scrapings should be treated as hazardous waste. Contact your municipal waste treatment agency or provincial Department or Ministry of Environment for disposal instructions.

## LEAD EXPOSURE FROM DUST AND SOIL

Dirt and household dust are among the main sources of lead for children under six years of age, because they sometimes eat unusual things (ie. soil or paint chips) and put everything into their mouth including hands that have been in contact with lead-dust and soil from crawling on the floor.

Homes situated near certain locations, such as lead-battery recycling factories, industries that have used lead or busy highways (where soil can contain residual lead from leaded gasoline), may contain high levels of lead. Significant amounts of lead resulting from deteriorating paint on buildings and steel structures (such as bridges or water towers) can be deposited in surrounding fields, gardens, pastures, etc. Lead can remain in the soil for decades, and can continue to contaminate any vegetables grown in the affected soil for many years afterward.

Many external sources can contribute to lead-laden household dust:

- contaminated soil can be tracked indoors;
- residual lead particles can enter your home when work clothes (from a job site where lead is present, for example) are brought home for washing;

- air from outside can carry particles in through windows and doors; and
- hazardous materials used in some hobbies or crafts (such as stained glass making) can be tracked into your home on clothing, footwear, or on your hands.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH LEAD-LADEN DUST AND SOIL?

If you want to know if soil near your home is contaminated, you can arrange to have it analyzed; refer to Part 3 of this booklet. Some provinces limit the permissible level of lead in the soil.

## WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Contaminated soil can be removed or covered, but this is usually only necessary if the lead level is very high. Instead, try to reduce exposure to contaminated dust or soil in the home by practicing good housekeeping and family hygiene. Here are some suggestions:

### **Indoors**

- Keep play areas as dust-free as possible.
- Ensure children wash their hands regularly.
- Vacuum your home regularly. Use a vacuum cleaner with a beater bar and a high-efficiency filter. If leaded dust is a problem in your home, you may want to consider removing any large carpets, because they can trap dust.
- Damp-mop floors and other hard surfaces.
- If you work around lead on the job, change work clothes and shower before leaving work; wash work clothes separately from the family laundry.
- Exercise care with hobby materials that contain lead.
- Remove outdoor footwear at the door, or put a large mat at the entrance and clean it often.

## Outdoors

- Plant grass on the contaminated area to reduce the amount of dirt picked up.
- Place gardens and play areas away from sources of lead.

## LEAD EXPOSURE FROM OLD LEAD PIPING AND SOLDERED PIPES

In most of Canada, the concentration of lead in natural water supplies is very low. However, significant levels of lead can result from the use of lead solder in plumbing, lead service connections to the main water supply, or lead pipes in the home. The problem is more evident in areas with soft drinking water supplies, or very acidic water (low pH), and in very old or very new homes. In old homes - pre-1960 the problem is often because of leaded distribution lines and service connections. In newer homes, excessive leaching from solder may occur for the first several years until a protective oxide layer has formed in the pipes.



*In houses built before the 1960s, the service connection that links the house to the water main may be made of lead.*

Lead accumulates when water stands in the pipes, so the first water out of the tap generally contains the most lead. You may be able to reduce your lead intake by letting the water run until it runs as cold as possible. To be sure that this is effective, have samples of your water tested before and after flushing. Hot water picks up more lead than cold, so don't use water from the hot tap for drinking, cooking or making baby formula.

Although the quality of drinking water is a provincial responsibility, the Canadian Plumbing Code prevents lead solder from being used in new plumbing or in repairs to plumbing for drinking water supplies. Several provinces have also passed legislation limiting the amount of lead in solder for drinking water supply lines.

Lead concentrations at the tap originating from lead solders and brass fixtures also decline with age. Researchers have concluded that the highest lead concentrations appear in the first year following installation and level off after five years of service. However, unlike lead-soldered joints and brass fixtures, it was found that lead piping can continue to provide a consistently strong source of lead after many years of service.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY WATER PIPES?

If the water delivery system to your home contains any sections of lead piping, high levels of lead may accumulate when the water is allowed to stand in the pipes, especially if the water is soft or acidic. Your water utility can tell you if that's the case. They can also tell you if there are any lead pipes in their distribution system. The presence of lead pipes or solder doesn't necessarily mean you have a lead problem. To be sure, have your

water tested. Before going to a commercial laboratory (refer to Part 3 of this booklet), contact your local water utility or public health department. They may be able to advise you on how to go about having your water tested.

Rural residents should monitor water from wells or other private sources of water for lead.



*You may be able to reduce the amount of lead in your drinking water by letting the cold water tap run until it is cold. This flushes out any water that has been standing in the pipes. To save water, in the morning flushing the toilet and showering will assist in flushing standing water. After running the water, storing water in your fridge for drinking is a good water-efficient practice.*

## WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality specify that the lead level in drinking water drawn from a fully flushed cold supply tap (one that has been allowed to run until the water gets cold), must be below 10 parts per billion.

If test results reveal consistently high lead levels, you should consider replacing lead pipes or lead solder. If you have a private water system, you may need to treat your water to make it less corrosive.

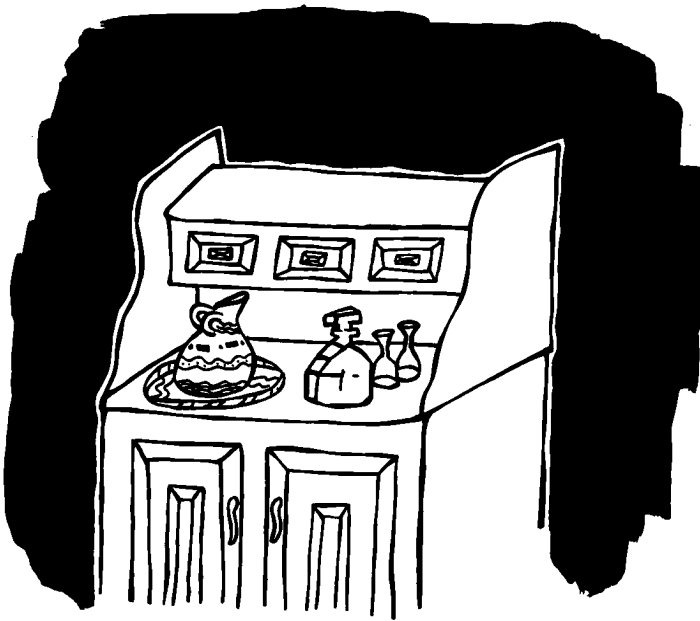
Some water treatment devices can remove lead. Reverse osmosis systems force water through a special filter. Distillers change water to steam and back again. Both are effective in removing lead, but may be expensive to buy or operate. Some activated carbon filters are reasonably efficient at removing lead. If you use one, ensure that it has been certified by the NSF International Standards for removing lead.

## OTHER SOURCES OF LEAD

Lead is an inexpensive substance which may potentially be found in a variety of household products. Some examples of products where lead may be found are the following:

**Glazed ceramics and glassware:** Some of these products may be decorated with lead-based glazes. Lead may get into food prepared, served or stored in these items if, for example, plates are worn, if the food is acidic or if food is left standing in them. The risk of lead released into food is low if the product is used only during the course of a meal; risk increases the longer the product is in contact with the food. Glazed ceramics and glassware advertised, sold or imported into Canada and intended for food use are regulated under the Hazardous Products Act, administered by Health Canada, which limits how much

lead can be in these products. Products not intended for food use are required to have either a feature such as a hole or mounting hook that makes them unsuitable for storing, preparing or serving food, or a permanent warning label indicating that they are not suitable for food use. Be cautious when using items made by hobbyists or craftspeople (unless you know they use lead-free glazes) or items that were purchased abroad.



*Glazed ceramics and glassware may contain lead. Minimize the time food or drink are served in them. Do not use for storage.*

**Lead crystal:** Except for certain decorative trim, lead crystal is not regulated under the Hazardous Products Act. When lead crystal comes in contact with food or beverages, especially acidic foods or beverages such as pickles, port, wine, fruit juices and soft drinks, some lead may dissolve into the food or beverage. Over the course of a meal, the amount of lead dissolved is very small, but beverages stored in crystal decanters can accumulate very high levels of lead. Therefore, use crystals only for serving, not for storage. Use lead-free tableware when serving children or pregnant women.

**Canned foods:** Some cans are sealed with lead solder. Lead solder is rarely used in Canada, but lead-sealed seams may still be found on some imported canned foods. Lead-free cans have a narrow, flat seam or no seam at all; lead-soldered cans have a thick, wide seam on the outside. Empty such cans immediately once you've opened them: lead contaminates food faster when it is exposed to air.

**Costume jewellery:** Lead is often used in inexpensive costume jewellery. Sucking or chewing on lead-containing jewellery can result in exposure to harmful levels of lead. Suspect the presence of lead in inexpensive jewellery which is soft and heavy for its size. Lead is a dull, bluish-grey in colour and will make a grey mark on white paper. The presence of lead may not be obvious if the lead is covered with a decorative or protective coating. However, such coatings are easily chewed or worn off, exposing the lead beneath. Remove any jewellery which is suspected to contain lead from the reach of young children. Do not buy children's jewellery unless the retailer can assure you that it does not contain lead.



**Painted wood, coloured inks:** Painted or treated wood, and paper printed with some coloured inks, may contain lead or other chemicals. Do not burn these items in a fireplace or woodstove, as this might release lead fumes.

**Hobby materials:** Some materials used in crafts and hobbies may contain lead or other hazardous materials. Those involved in oil painting, stained glass, automotive repair, furniture refinishing, and electronics should store hobby and craft materials in a tightly closed container. Clean up your work area thoroughly afterwards, and be sure to wash your hands well, too. Don't work near areas where food is prepared or served. Don't eat while you're working. Avoid working near children. Take precautions to prevent tracking materials through the house. Wash work clothes separately.

# PART 3: FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

The sources below can provide more information about the lead problems and solutions discussed in this booklet. Addresses and telephone numbers for federal, provincial and municipal government offices can be found in the blue pages of your local telephone directory.

## **Lead and health:**

- Your local Poison Information (or Control) Centre. See the front pages of your telephone directory.
- Your local public health department.
- Your regional office of Health Canada.
- A “Lead Information Package” which includes commonly asked questions and answers is available on Health Canada’s website at:  
[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ehp/ehd/catalogue/bch\\_pubs/leadQandA/toc.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ehp/ehd/catalogue/bch_pubs/leadQandA/toc.htm)
- To view the It’s Your Health Fact Sheet on Lead and Human Health visit the following Health Canada link:  
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ehp/ehd/catalogue/general/iyh/leadhum.htm>

## **Blood-lead level tests:**

- Your family doctor or local Poison Information (or Control) Centre.

## **Testing for lead in paint, soil, dust, solder, pottery or drinking water:**

- Home test kits, available through pottery supply outlets, can detect the presence of lead in paint, soil, solder, water, pottery and other items. These tests provide an approximate measurement of the amount of lead present, and should be used only to determine if further testing is necessary.
- The tests performed by commercial testing laboratories are more precise than home tests. Shop around for the best price and service. Lists of accredited

laboratories can be obtained from these organizations:

Standards Council of Canada

270 Albert Street

Suite 200

Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6N7

Tel.: (613) 238-3222

Fax: (613) 569-7808

[www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca)

Canadian Association for Environmental

Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL)

265 Carling Avenue, Suite 300

Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2E1

Tel.: (613) 233-5300

Fax: (613) 233-5501

[www.caeal.ca](http://www.caeal.ca)

- Some environmental or engineering firms offer lead testing as well as encapsulation (covering) or removal services. Check the yellow pages in your telephone directory for addresses and phone numbers.
- Your provincial Department or Ministry of Environment may offer soil or drinking water tests. A small fee may apply.
- Your provincial Department or Ministry of Agriculture may offer soil tests. A small fee may apply.
- If lead in paint, soil, air or water is a problem in your area, your local public health department may have a testing program.

**Lead in paint, glazed ceramics and glassware, lead crystal or other consumer products:**

- Contact the Health Canada Product Safety Office in your region.
- Regional office contact information is at:  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/cps/contact.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/cps/contact.htm) or  
call (613) 957-3133

**Lead in paint:**

- Contact the manufacturer directly, or:  
Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA)  
9900 Cavendish Boulevard, Suite 103  
St-Laurent, Quebec H4M 2V2  
Tel.: (514) 745-2611  
Fax: (514) 745-2031  
email: [cpca@cdnpaint.org](mailto:cpca@cdnpaint.org)  
[www.cdnpaint.org](http://www.cdnpaint.org)

**Lead in drinking water:**

- Contact your local water utility or public health department.
- Contact your regional office of Health Canada, or visit the water quality website at:  
[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/water\\_quality](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/water_quality)

“Three bodies have been authorized by the Standards Council of Canada ([www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca)) to certify the compliance of water treatment devices with NSF International standards. NSF International ([www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)), CSA International ([www.csa-international.org](http://www.csa-international.org)), and Underwriters Laboratories ([www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com)) are authorized to certify compliance with NSF/ANSI standards. Consumers may wish to visit the above websites for further information. NSF International and Underwriters Laboratories maintain on-line databases of certified devices.”

**Lead in the environment:**

- Contact your regional office of Environment Canada.

**Lead exposure at work:**

- Contact:  
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety  
250 Main Street East  
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 1H6  
Tel.: 1-800-263-8466 (toll-free) or (905) 572-4400  
Fax: (905) 572-4500  
E-mail: [custserv@ccohs.ca](mailto:custserv@ccohs.ca)  
[www.ccohs.ca/ccohs/inq.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/ccohs/inq.html)

**Special equipment (HEPA vacuum cleaners, respirators, gloves, etc.):**

- Suppliers of industrial safety equipment should be able to advise you on personal protective equipment for paint stripping. See the yellow pages in your telephone directory.
- Your provincial Department or Ministry of Labour can also provide information about protective equipment and its availability.

**Lead analysis, clean-up techniques, and other renovation safety issues:**

- Contact your local office of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). CMHC has conducted a number of research projects into lead analysis, precautionary measures for renovation, and effective clean-up techniques. Non-technical summaries and full research reports for these projects are available from:  
Canadian Housing Information Centre  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)  
700 Montreal Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7  
Tel.: (613) 748-2367  
Fax: (613) 748-4069

**Disposal of lead waste:**

- Contact your local municipal government, the waste management agency in your area, or your provincial Department or Ministry of Environment.

Visit our Web site at: [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca)

## **LEAD IN YOUR HOME (61941)**

Exposure to large amounts of lead can cause serious illness. If you're not sure whether lead is a problem in and around your home, this booklet can help. It describes the common sources of lead in Canadian homes, suggests precautions you can take to reduce the dangers of exposure and lists resources to consult for more information.

