

Ask me anything about lead exposure.



Learn what to look for and what to do if you suspect lead exposure.

Q Okay, why an alligator?

A Old, peeling paint has a scaly appearance, sometimes called “alligatoring.” Old paint chips are a common source of lead exposure.

Q What are some of the effects of lead poisoning?

A Lead in the blood can cause developmental delays, difficulty learning and behavioral issues. The effects of lead poisoning can be permanent and disabling.

Q What can I do to protect my family?

A Get your kids tested if they’re at risk for lead exposure, especially at ages 1 and 2. Live in an old house? Have your tap water tested for lead. Wet-mop and wet-wipe often. Wash your kids’ hands and toys regularly. Run water for 60 seconds before using, and cook with cold water only.

Q What are the sources of lead exposure?

A In addition to old paint, other common sources include water from old lead pipes, lead-contaminated soil, and some imported toys and jewelry.

Q Are small amounts of lead exposure okay?

A No. It’s important to remember that there is no safe level of lead in the blood. Even low levels of lead in the blood can cause lasting harm.

Q Who is at the most risk of lead poisoning?

A By far, children under the age of 6 are at highest risk because they tend to put things in their mouths during important developmental years. The negative effects can be long-lasting.

Learn more: For more helpful information about lead poisoning, visit vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe

