

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 25-31, 2020

[National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#), October 25-31, 2020, aims to increase awareness and reduce childhood exposure to lead. The Toxicology and Environmental Epidemiology Office and environmental divisions encourage you to visit the links below to:

- [Find out if your child should be tested.](#)
- [Learn about testing your home](#) and request a free, do-it-yourself Leadcheck Kit.
- [Get answers to health questions.](#)

Lead can be found in water that travels through lead pipes; soil around buildings; imported toys, spices and glazed pottery; home remedies such as greta or azacron; and certain adult jobs and hobbies. However, the most common source of exposure is lead-based paint, used in many homes built before 1978. People can breathe in or swallow lead-containing dust, and children may eat paint chips.

Data from the Colorado Environmental Public Health Tracking Program show the number of blood lead tests for children under age 6 dropped by 48% compared to the average over the last three years. Lead can affect people of all ages, but young children are at higher risk because their rapidly growing bodies absorb lead more easily. Lead poisoning can cause slower growth, learning difficulties, and other health concerns.

“The good news is, lead poisoning is 100% preventable,” said Kristy Richardson, state toxicologist. “But too few kids are getting tested. With a simple blood test, we can treat kids who have been exposed, and we can identify and eliminate sources of lead in the child’s environment.”

Common sources of lead in Colorado

 <p>Homes built before 1978 with chipping, peeling or flaking paint and imported toys with lead-based paint.</p>	 <p>Imported spices such as tumeric, coriander, black pepper, thyme and hanuman sindoor.</p>	 <p>Imported glazed pottery, commonly used to cook beans or hot chocolate.</p>	 <p>Home remedies such as greta or azacron used to treat stomach illness or empacho.</p>
 <p>Lead contaminated oil or dust tracked into the house.</p>	 <p>Hobbies such as hunting and fishing that use leaded bullets or fish sinkers; some artist paint and furniture refinishing.</p>	 <p>Work in lead related industries such as construction, mining, welding and plumbing.</p>	 <p>Water from pipes in homes built before 1978 can be contaminated with lead.</p>