



Lead is in the  
News

**What are the  
Facts?**

# Why is Lead a Concern?



- Lead is a heavy metal. It is used in a variety of products and materials.
- There is no safe level of lead in the human body.
- Lead can be passed from a pregnant woman to her unborn child.
- Children under the age of six are the most at risk of being affected by lead, due to their developing neurological systems.

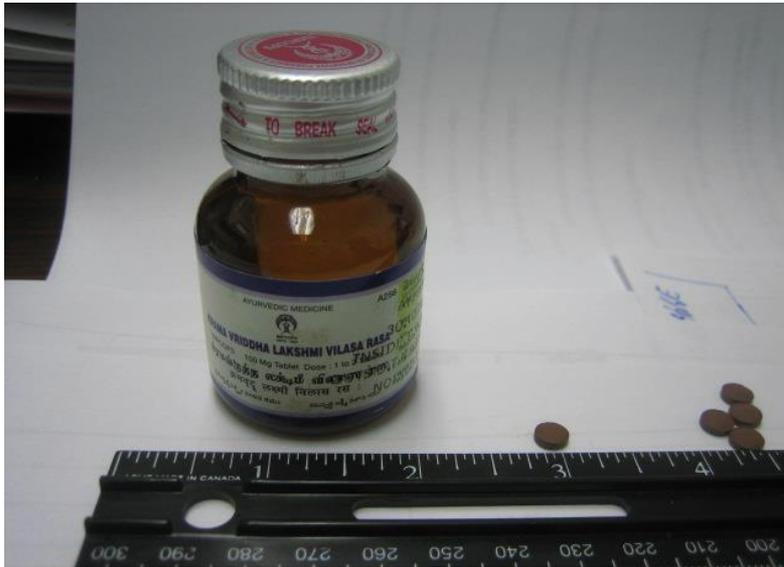


## How are Children Exposed to Lead?

- Lead dust is the primary source of elevated blood lead levels in children.
- Lead dust results as peeling/chipping Lead Based Paint (LBP) deteriorates from repeated friction or impact, such as opening or closing windows or doors.
- Children are usually poisoned by ingesting lead dust through normal hand-to-mouth activity.

# Other Sources of Lead

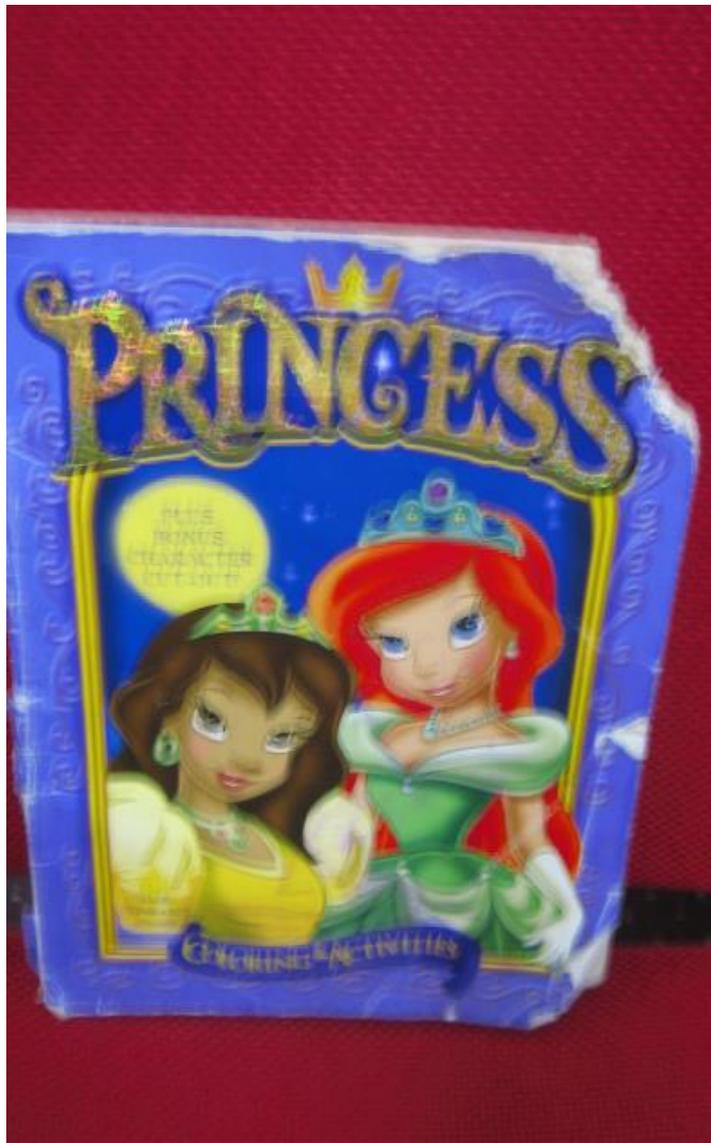
- Soil
- Consumer Goods
- Traditional Folk Remedies
- Jewelry
- Food
- Ayurvedic Medications



Ayurvedic Medication tested and found to contain high levels of lead and mercury

It is not unusual to see small children playing with their sunglasses or putting them in their mouths.





This is not an item that we expected to contain high levels of lead.

**The Consumer Product Safety Commission lowered the level of lead permitted in children's products back in 2011. The regulations only applied to items manufactured after the new regulations went into effect**



We often test spices and find them to contain lead.



# Lead in Drinking Water

- Public water systems (PWSs) are required by federal standards to test throughout the distribution system to identify system-wide problems.
- They are **not** required to sample individual buildings or taps.
- Unless a school operates its own PWS, testing for lead is voluntary.
- Monmouth County Health has never identified lead in drinking water as the primary source in a childhood lead poisoning case.

- If drinking water results from the schools show elevated lead levels, schools will be required to remediate, or provide bottled water.
- Parents may request that their child be screened for lead.



## Proposed regulations that may affect those working at the local level

- Governor Christie has proposed \$10 million in funding to test schools for lead in drinking water.
- An additional \$ 10 million has been proposed for lead abatement funding
- Legislation has been proposed to lower the level of concern for children's blood lead levels from 10 $\mu$ g/dL to 5 $\mu$ g/dL.



- Based on the high level of media attention that has been focused on the water crisis in Flint Michigan, we have seen an increased interest childhood lead screening.
- Once the level of concern is lowered, we expect to see a **six fold** increase in lead cases.
- This will translate to an increase in lead abatement permits.

# How Can We Reduce Potential Exposure to Lead?

- To avoid tracking contaminated soil into the home, place doormats outside all entryways. And remove shoes before entering.
- Practice good hand hygiene. Have children wash their hands frequently, especially before eating.
- Keep painted surfaces maintained. Peeling, chipping paint should be repaired promptly, using lead safe work practices.
- Run the water for a few minutes before drinking. Use only cold water for drinking and cooking.



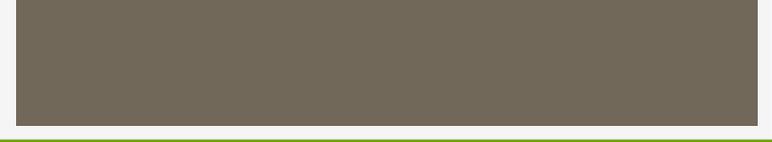


## Going Forward

**Identifying children with elevated blood lead levels early will help reduce:**

- Medical costs
- Special Education costs
- Criminal Justice costs
- Costs associated with long term (lifetime) social service needs

as a results of permanent Neurological deficits resulting from lead poisoning



**For Additional Information :**

**MONMOUTH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

732-431-7456

Or

**Contact your local health  
department**

Visit the following websites:

**MCHD:**

**<http://www.visitmonmouth.com/health>**

**EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>**

**NJDOH:**

**<http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/newborn/lead.shtml>**

**CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>**

Thank You