

# Lead Paint in Toys

## Why is lead paint and/or lead dust dangerous?

Lead poisoning can damage the brain, kidneys, and the nervous system. Even low levels can slow a child's development and cause learning and behavior problems. Symptoms are not always visible.

## How lead may be found in toys

*Paint:* In the United States, toy makers have been banned from using lead paint since 1978. However, lead paint may be used in toys made in other countries, or in toys made in the United States before 1978.

*Plastic:* Lead may be used in plastic toys to make them more flexible. The plastic may break down to form dust, which can be harmful.

## How your child may be exposed

Children may be exposed to lead in or on toys by putting the toys in their mouths.

## What to do if you are concerned your child has been exposed

If you think your child has been exposed to lead from his or her toy, take the toy away immediately. The only way to know if your child has been exposed to lead paint or lead dust is to have a blood test. Ask your child's pediatrician if a blood test is necessary.

## How to get a list of recalled toys

To see a list of recalled toys, visit <http://www.bphc.org/leadpoisoning>, or call the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) at 1-800-638-2772. Another helpful website is: <http://www.healthytoys.org>, a group that tests for dangerous materials in toys.

## How to choose a safe toy for your child

Shopping for safe toys can be confusing. Print out a copy of the list of recalled toys and bring with you to the store. Look for the label, "Made in the U.S.A."

## Where to get more help with keeping your child safe from lead

The Boston Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program wants to help you protect your child from lead poisoning by providing:

- Free in-home lead inspections
- Free in-home nutritional assessments
- Free Moderate Risk De-leading classes and
- Help with getting financial assistance for deleading



**Call today 617-534-5966**



B O S T O N

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