

# Lead-Safe Toys for North Carolina Children

Prepared by the N.C. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

***Lead can cause permanent damage, especially to children under the age of 6.***

## Children exposed to lead can have:

- **Stunted** growth.
- Mental problems like **low IQ** and/or **learning problems**.
- Severe lead poisoning, which can cause **seizures**, **coma** and **even death**.

## Lead can be in:

- **Paint** on toys.
- **Plastic parts** of toys.
- **Lead-based paint** that is still in older homes.  
Paint can chip or form a harmful dust.
- **Dust** from toys that have lead **in them** or lead-based paint **on them**.  
**Lead dust cannot be seen** and **has no smell**.
- **Soil**, **vinyl mini-blinds**, **imported candy**, **lead-glazed pottery**, **fishing tackle** and some home remedies, such as **azarcane** and **greta**.
- **Drinking water pipes** with lead-based solder.

## What can I do?

- **Find out if your child's toys have lead.** Call the Consumer Product Safety Commission or check out its Web site at **www.cpsc.gov**. This agency can tell you about **recalls of toys with lead** and where to send a toy to be tested (**Note:** testing damages the toy so it may not be returned).
- **Ask your doctor to do a simple blood test.** It's the only sure way to know. There is **no safe level of lead** in a child.
- **Give your child a full, healthy diet with lots of calcium and iron** such as milk, cheese, broccoli, collards, canned salmon and meats.
- **Do not drink, cook or make baby formula** with water from the hot-water tap.
- **Run the cold water for 15–30 seconds before you use it** to flush lead from pipes.
- **Wash your child's hands often**, especially **before they eat** and **after playing outside** to help prevent lead poisoning.



Children can be exposed to lead by **putting toys in their mouths** or by **playing with contaminated toys**.



**Wash children's hands often to remove lead.**

## What about home testing kits?

- **Do not trust** home testing kits.
- They don't always show that lead is present when it actually is.

## What should I do with contaminated toys?

- If a toy is recalled, **return it to the manufacturer**.
- **Throw the toy out** — **do not donate** it to a charity.
- Be sure to **clean any other toys that were near the toy** to remove lead dust.

## What are some tips for buying lead-safe toys?

- **Check for recalled toys** with CPSC **before you shop**.
- Check CPSC to see which **toy manufacturers are doing voluntary lead testing**.
- **Look at where the toy was made** (some toys 'made in China' have had lead in them).
- **Throw away toys** with **chipped paint** or **cracked plastic**.
- **Do not buy metal toy jewelry**, such as toys in vending machines.

## It can be hard to tell if your child has lead poisoning.

### Symptoms are not always present.

### Some common symptoms are:

- headache
- stomachache
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- muscle weakness
- irritability
- tiredness
- aggressiveness
- hyperactivity
- loss of appetite



**Don't buy  
low-cost  
metal toy  
jewelry.**



**It can be hard  
to detect  
lead poisoning.**

# Keep your child safe from lead!

## Learn more from

N.C. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:

Call the Lead Hotline with questions.

**1-888-774-0071**

**(toll free)**



N.C. Children's Environmental Health Branch:

[www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/Children\\_Health/Lead/lead.html](http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/Children_Health/Lead/lead.html)

Check for recalled toys by the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility:

[cehs.sph.unc.edu](http://cehs.sph.unc.edu)



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