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Lead-Safety for Home Buyers



What You Should Look for When Buying a Home

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Why Lead Poisoning Prevention is Important

- **Lead Can Poison Your Young Child**
 - may permanently damage nervous system
 - reduce intelligence
 - cause reading and learning disabilities
 - reduce attention span
 - cause behavioral problems

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What are lead hazards?

- **Deteriorated lead-based paint (LBP)**
 - flaking, chipping, peeling
 - on painted surfaces that rub or are banged
- **Lead-contaminated dust**
- **Lead-contaminated soil**

Intact LBP is not a hazard!

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Children get poisoned by getting lead contaminated dust and soil on their hands or toys and putting them in their mouths, or by eating lead painted chips.

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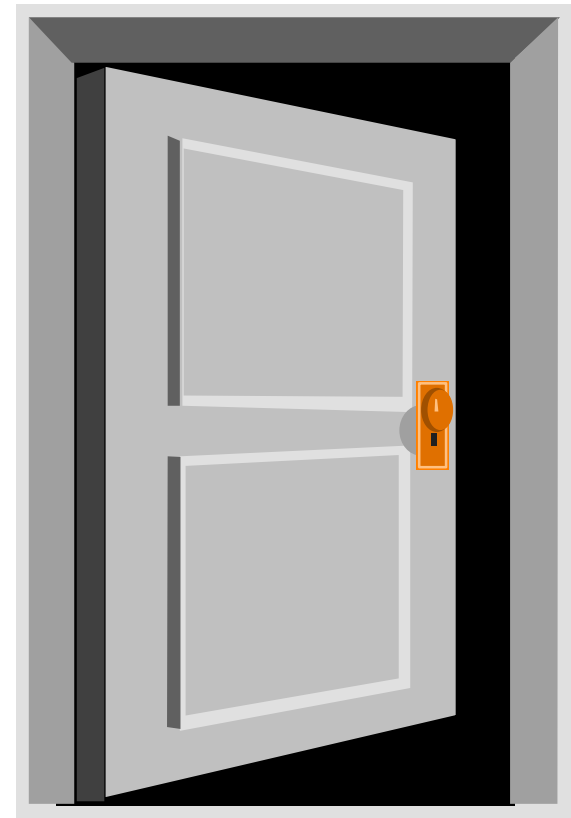
Who has elevated blood lead levels?

- **Estimated 4.4% of 1-5 year olds (890,000 children)**
- **living in pre-1950 housing**
- **rates are highest for 1-2 year old kids**
- **11.2% of black children**
- **over 50% of children screened in some inner city communities**

**Many first time homebuyers
fit this profile!**

3 Critically Important Messages for Homebuyers

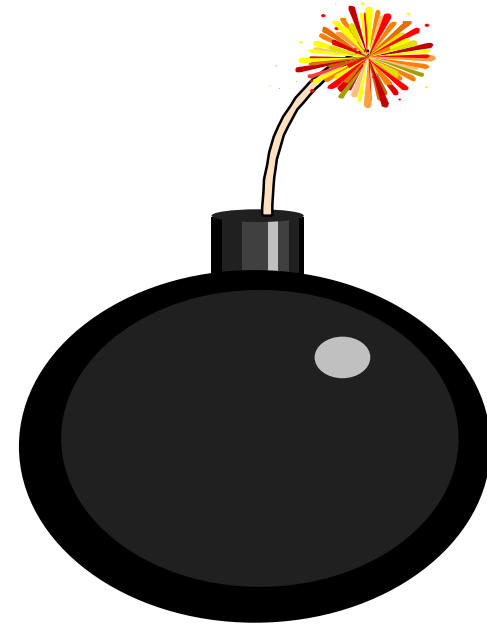
**1. Most pre-1950
homes have lead
based paint!**



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2nd Message to Homebuyers:

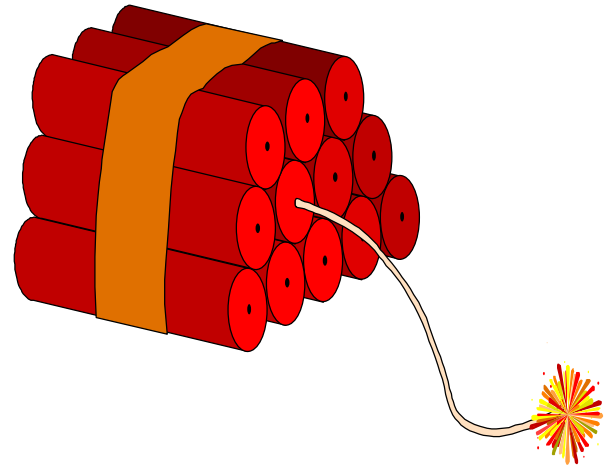
**Buying a home with
lots of peeling lead
based paint can
poison your child
and cost you a lot
of \$ for repairs.**



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3rd Message to Homebuyers:

**Disturbing lead
based paint during
renovation can
create lead dust
and poison
children and adults**



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What sellers must do:

- **According to a new disclosure law, sellers must provide buyers with:**
 - a lead information booklet
 - any information they know about lead in their homes
 - 10 days for a lead inspection

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What buyers can do in older housing:

- **Look for deteriorated paint.**
- **If you find it, consider getting a professional to test for LBP, or LBP hazards, or**
- **Take a paint chip sample and have it tested by a laboratory, or**
- **Assume LBP, and stabilize the paint using lead-safe methods.**

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If buyer plans to renovate:

- **Whoever does work should use lead-safe methods**

**Remember! Disturbing LBP
during renovation can be dangerous!**

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Take precautions:

- **Repair deteriorated LBP before people move in**
- **If renovating, do it before people move in**
- **If home has a lot of peeling LBP, consider buying another home**

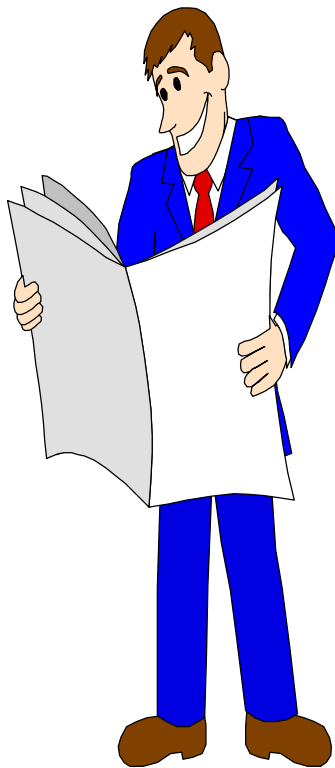
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**Clean well, and consider
taking dust tests before family
moves in.**

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IMPORTANT!



- **Can use known presence of LBP or LBP hazards to negotiate with seller to reduce price and/or correct lead hazards**

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OK, so what do you do now?

- **What professional help is available?**
- **How do you repair paint in a lead-safe manner?**
- **What can you do to protect your family?**

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Lead-Hazard Control Professionals:

- **Inspectors**: Test for the presence of LBP using special equipment
- **Risk Assessors**: Test for the presence of LBP hazards and make recommendations
- **Certified contractors**: Contractors who have been state certified to perform LBP hazard control

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How to find a certified lead hazard control professional:

- **Contact your local or state health department for a list of certified professionals, or**
- **Call 1-888-532-3547 for a list of trained professionals in your state**
- **Remember to ask for references from contractors!**

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How to repair paint in a lead-safe manner:

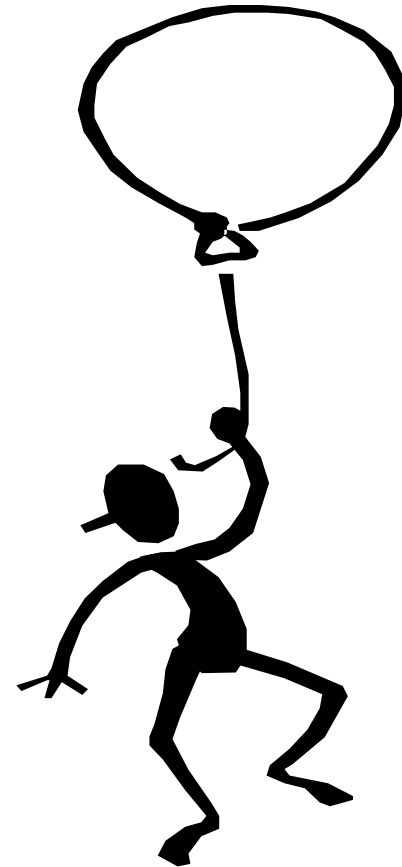
- **Work wet to minimize dust**
- **Contain dust and debris and dispose of it safely**
- **Clean yourself and area thoroughly when done**
- **Keep children out of work area**
- **Read lead-safe practices sheet for more details**

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How to protect your family:

- **Clean window wells and sills regularly**
- **Use door mats or take off shoes to prevent lead from being tracked into home**
- **Put a blanket or sheet between your baby and the floor**

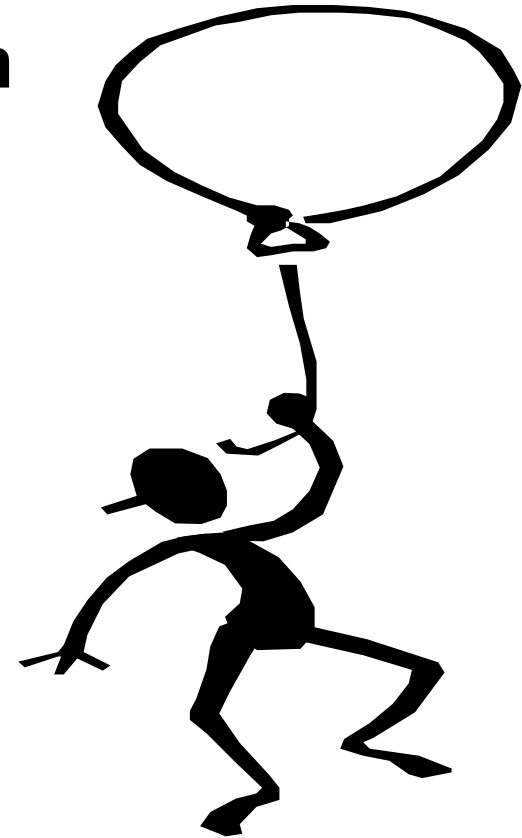
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How to protect your family, con't

- **Prevent young children from playing in bare soil around the home (plant bushes, or create a special play area)**
- **Include milk, cheese, leafy greens, fish, and broiled or baked lean meat in child s diet**
- **See handout for more info**



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For more information:

- **Read the information provided by your housing counselor**
- **Call 1-800-LEAD-FYI or your local health department for more information**

