

# LEAD PAINT

## A hidden enemy in your home?



Lead paint may be present inside of your walls, doors, and windows, putting your family at risk. Young children are especially vulnerable and susceptible to serious injury. Do not wait until it is too late to investigate its existence in your home.

Common sources of lead poisoning include peeling paint, improper renovation, and poor repairs to walls, doors, or windows. Poisoning in children mostly occurs due to the ingestion of dust that has been accumulated on their fingers, hands, clothing and toys.

### In children, exposure can cause:

- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination

### In adults, exposure can cause:

- Illness during pregnancy
- Harm to a fetus, including brain damage or death
- Fertility problems (in both men and women)
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems
- Nerve disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pain

### Symptoms

Because the early symptoms of lead poisoning are easy to confuse with other illnesses, it is difficult to diagnose without medical testing.

Early symptoms may include persistent tiredness, irritability, loss of appetite, stomach discomfort, reduced attention span, insomnia and constipation. Even those appearing healthy, however, may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.

The earlier lead paint poisoning is identified, the easier it is to treat.

### Preventive action

In order to ensure the health of our children, New Yorkers must have access to healthy homes. Tenants, parents, and pregnant women living in buildings built before 1978 need to test their apartment, especially if their home has peeling paint. Approximately 38 million U.S. homes still contain lead-based paint and over a million children are harmed each year.

### Protect your rights

Your landlord is required to inspect any apartment housing a child under 6 for peeling paint and other lead hazards at least once a year. Every landlord is also required by law to fix any reported peeling or damaged paint. If you have peeling paint in your home, call 311 to file a complaint.

### Looking for help?

Housing Conservation Coordinators, a community-based organization with more than 38 years of experience preserving affordable housing in Hell's Kitchen, can help you with your complaint to obtain necessary repairs. Call 212.541.5996 or visit us at 777 Tenth Avenue, New York, 10019 or online at [www.hcc-nyc.org](http://www.hcc-nyc.org)



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