What kind of problems can happen with lead?

Lead poisoned children and babies may have:

- Problems with learning
- Lowered attention span
- Hyperactivity
- Hearing loss

Your child could be affected even if you are exposed to lead while you are pregnant.

Also, you could have a higher than normal chance of having a baby born too soon or having a miscarriage, if exposed to lead during pregnancy.
Lead is found in:

- Paint and paint dust in homes and furniture built before 1978
- Soil or dirt
- Some children’s toys and jewelry
- Some jobs (painters and welders) and hobbies (stained glass, casting fishing sinkers)
- Some folk remedies and cosmetics
- Ceramics and crystal
- Water
Prenatal Risk Assessment

Ask yourself these questions to see if you, your baby or your children are at risk:

1. Do you live in or regularly visit an old house (built before 1978) with ongoing renovations that generate a lot of dust (e.g. sanding, scraping)?

2. Do you live in or regularly visit an old house (built before 1950) that has peeling, chipping, dusting or chalking paint?

3. Do you have children in the household with lead poisoning?

4. Do you have a history of lead poisoning?

5. To your knowledge, has your water been tested for lead, and if so, were you told the level was high?

6. Sometimes pregnant women have the urge to eat things that are not food such as clay, soil, plaster or paint chips. Do you ever eat or chew on non-food items? (If yes, discuss with your doctor)

7. Do you use homemade pottery or leaded crystal?

8. Do you or others in your household have an occupation (see below) involving lead exposure?

   - Lead abatement
   - Use of lead-based paints
   - Home renovation/restoration
   - Metal scrap yards/other recycling

   - Manufacturing/installation of plumbing components
   - Brass/copper foundry
   - Glass recycling, including stained glass
   - Occupations using firearms

   - Firing range work
   - Pottery making
   - Production/use of chemical preparations
   - Bridge, tunnel and elevated highway construction

   - Motor vehicle parts and accessories
   - Automotive repair shops
   - Industrial machinery manufacturing
   - Battery manufacturing/repair

9. Do you use any traditional folk remedies or cosmetics (see below) that are not sold in a regular drug store or are homemade, which may contain lead?

   - Alkohl (kohl, surma)
   - Azarcon (reuda, liga, coral, alarcon, maria luisa)
   - Bali goli
   - Ghazard
   - Greta
   - Pay-loo-ah
Questions for Lead

Do you or others in your household have any hobbies or activities likely to cause lead exposure (see below)?

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- Scraping, sanding or burning lead-based paint on household structures or furniture
- Making or painting on stained glass
- Copper enameling
- Bronze casting
- Making pottery/ceramic ware with lead glazes/paints
- Casting ammunition, fishing weights or lead figurines
- Collecting, painting or playing games with lead figurines
- Jewelry making lead solder
- Electronics with lead solder
- Print making (using lead white, flake white and chrome yellow pigments)
- Liquor distillation
- Hunting and target shooting

Yes response = please refer patient to one of the Ohio Lead Regional Resource Centers (RRCs) for education.

Northwest RRC = 1-800-698-3691
Southwest RRC = 1-800-957-3810
Southeast RRC = 740-454-9741
Eastern Ohio RRC = 1-866-887-6779 ext. 138

If you answered, “yes” to any of these questions, get a blood lead test for your child right away.

Unless there are symptoms, pregnant women don’t have their blood tested for lead. This is because while pregnant, blood tests may not be accurate and there is no treatment for high levels.
Preventing Lead Poisoning

Do these things:

- Eat healthy, well-balanced meals
  - Some examples are:
    Milk, meat, cereal, beans, peas, spinach, cheese, cooked greens
- Wash hands well and often
- Keep your house clean
  - Wash floors and window sills often
  - Damp dust
- Keep regular prenatal doctor visits
- Protect yourself if your job exposes you to lead
- Leave your shoes at the door
- Avoid peeling, chipping paint
  - Do not sand paint
  - Avoid remodeling and lead paint removal
  - Do not use a heat gun to remove old paint
- Never sweep or dust with dry cloth
- Never put non-food items in your mouth (sometimes pregnant women may have an urge to eat things that are not food). If you have the urge to eat non-food items, discuss this with your doctor.
  - Some examples are:
    - Corn startch
    - Crushed pottery
    - Dirt