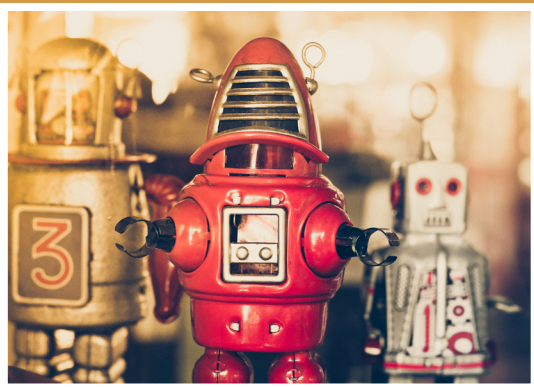


Lead safe recreation:

Lead in Antiques & Vintage Items

Antiques such as painted furniture, jewelry, toys, and dishware may contain lead. People and their families who buy, refinish, actively use, or remodel antique and vintage items may be exposed to lead.



Lead poisoning is preventable! Protect yourself and your family. There is no safe level of lead.



Be aware of the sources of lead in your antiques

- Unless you are certain that the item does not contain lead, assume antique or vintage items contain lead and take appropriate precautions to prevent lead poisoning.
- Certain antiques may be more likely to contain lead, especially items made before 1978:
 - Furniture with chipping or distressed paint
 - “Shabby-chic” decor
 - Old window or picture frames
 - Antique bed frames
 - Ceramics or pottery with lead glaze or paint
 - Leaded crystal
 - Collector toys
 - Jewelry
 - Brass or pewter items
 - Salvaged faucets or fixtures, especially if made of brass and chrome
- Lead from antique ceramic, glassware, or dishware can leach into food or drinks, especially if items are heated or food is stored in dishware containing lead.
- Test your items for lead by submitting a sample to a certified laboratory, using an X-Ray Fluorescence device, or by using lead test kits. Test kits can be purchased at most hardware stores and are useful for detecting high levels of lead.

Prevent lead exposure when refurbishing antiques

- Reduce lead contamination when transporting antique or vintage items. Wrap items in plastic sheeting to minimize release of dust and debris.
- Do not dry scrape or sand lead-containing items. Use water to control dust and debris during these activities. Protect your work area and wash with soapy water, followed by rinsing with clean water when the project is complete.
- Wear protective clothing that can be discarded or washed separately from other clothing. Wear safety glasses and a HEPA dust mask for work that produces dust.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or clean them with lead decontamination wipes after handling antique items that contain lead. Use disposable gloves when possible.
- Keep children and pregnant women away from your work area.
- Consider displaying antique items such as trinkets, jewelry, toys, or tools out of children's reach. Items used only for viewing are less of a health risk. Clean these items lightly using a damp cloth or a vacuum with a HEPA filter.
- Consider applying a sealant product on finished antique items to minimize the release of lead dust and debris.

Resources

Idaho Environmental Health Program lead page - healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/environmental-health/lead

Consumer Products Safety Commission: Product recalls for lead - www.saferproducts.gov/PublicSearch

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/sources/consumer-products.htm

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead

Contact

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Environmental Health Program

healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/environmentalhealth

BCEH@dhw.idaho.gov

(800) 445-8647

Test your blood lead level



Contact your health care provider and ask for a simple blood lead level test for you and your family. These tests are covered by Medicaid and most private health insurance.



There is no safe blood lead level in children. However, a blood lead level above 3.5 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL) indicates increased risk of health effects.



Adults exposed to lead may develop difficulties with memory, attention, learning, hearing loss, infertility, and high blood pressure.