

How do I know if I work with lead?

You may work with lead if you:

- make or fix batteries
- melt, cast, or grind lead, brass, or bronze
- make or fix radiators
- make or paint ceramics/stained glass
- remove old paint in residential housing built before 1978
- tear down or remodel houses built before 1978, or buildings, tanks, or bridges
- solder
- work with scrap metal
- work at a shooting range
- work in lead based occupations such as mining
- perform welding of materials that may contain lead or lead dust

There are many other jobs where lead can be dangerous.

Ask your employer if you work with lead. Your employer must tell you about anything at work that is dangerous. This includes lead.

Get the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each product you use on the job.

An MSDS is a form that lists the ingredients in a product. Look at "Section 11" of the MSDS to see if the product contains lead.

Ask to see the results of any tests that are done for lead in your work area. You are exposed to lead when you scrape, blast, sand, burn, weld, or cut surfaces where there is lead paint or lead dust.

Get a blood lead test.

Adults who are lead poisoned may feel tired, irritable, or get aches and pains. Ask your doctor about lead testing or follow your company's lead testing policy or program if they have one.

If you still have questions about lead at work, ask your employer or OSHA. You may obtain general information about lead and lead poisoning prevention from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Section of Epidemiology at (907) 269-8000.



Don't take lead home from your job!



Can lead at work harm my child?

Yes. Your child can get lead poisoning if you or someone who lives in your home works with lead.

Some jobs and hobbies produce lead dust or fumes. You cannot see lead dust, but it can get on your hands, face, and clothes. You can carry lead dust from your job to your family when you wear your work clothes and shoes home. Lead dust can get in your car. It can get on furniture, floors, and carpets. Your child can swallow this lead dust and be poisoned.

What can lead poisoning do to my child?

Children who swallow lead dust may have problems learning and paying attention. Lead can harm the brain, nerves and kidneys. Lead is especially dangerous for children under the age of six.

Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick.

Ask your doctor to test your child's blood for lead. This is the only way to know if your child is being lead poisoned.

How can I protect my family from lead poisoning?



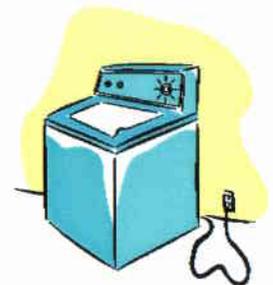
If possible change into clean clothes and shoes at work before you get into your car or go home, and put dirty work clothes and shoes in a plastic bag.

Wash your face and hands with soap and warm water before leaving work.



Take a shower and wash your hair as soon as you get home before you hold or play with your children. (It is better to shower at work if you can.)

Wash work clothes separately from all other clothes. (It is recommended that they be washed as soon as you get home.) Run the empty washing machine again to rinse out any remaining lead.



Please Note: In many lead related industries, blood lead testing requirements for employees will differ from those that private physicians or health care providers may prescribe for the general public. The frequency of blood lead testing would depend on the degree of lead hazard exposure or the amount of lead concentration in the blood. If you have questions contact your company health care providers.