Lead Can Be Carried Home from Work on Clothes, Shoes, and Vehicles

**WHAT IS “TAKE-HOME” LEAD**

**Lead dust can be brought home from work**

Take-home lead occurs when lead dust produced at work is brought home on clothes, shoes, and personal belongings. It can be carried into your car, and onto furniture, floors, carpets, and other belongings. Because of this, your family can be exposed to lead even if there are no lead hazards in the home.

**REDUCING “TAKE-HOME” LEAD**

**Remove lead dust from clothes, shoes & personal items**

If you work with lead, take these precautions:

- Wash hands & face before leaving work
- Change into clean clothes & shoes before getting into your car, and use washable seat covers
- Put dirty work clothes and shoes in a plastic bag
- Wash work clothes separately & run an empty load before washing other clothes

**LEAD-SAFE WORK PRACTICES**

**Protect yourself from lead at work**

- Don’t eat, drink, smoke, or change clothes in work areas
- Keep facial hair and nails clean and dust-free
- Wash under jewelry like rings and bracelets
- Avoid sweeping or blowing dust
- Use a wet-mop cleaning system and disposable wipes
- Wear protective equipment like a respirator and disposable coveralls
- Leave your cellphone and other personal belongings such as keys in a clean area

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**Your Family & “Take-Home” Lead**

Lead can cause health problems in adults and children. Such as:

**All Adults**
- Tiredness & headache
- Muscle & joint pain
- Changes in appetite & mood
- Damage to brain, nerves & kidneys
- Fertility issues in men & women
- Reduced sex drive

**Pregnant Women**
- Miscarriages
- Premature delivery
- Low birth weight babies
- Permanent damage to fetus

**Breastfeeding Women**
- May have contaminated milk which can expose child to lead

**Children**
- Permanent health damage to brain, nerves & kidneys
- Long-term learning challenges
- Trouble with memory & behavior

Pregnant and breastfeeding women, and younger children are at special risk and should be tested.
Though the dangers of lead have been known for years, many common items still contain lead. Some jobs and hobbies put people at a high risk of being exposed to lead. Know if your hobby or job exposes you to lead and be sure to take the necessary precautions.

### Construction
- Painting or paint removal
- Remodeling & renovations
- Plumbing, glazing, & brick laying
- Lead burning
- Construction & repair of bridges, water towers, tanks
- Welding or cutting materials with lead alloys

### Hobbies
- Home remodeling
- Melting lead for fishing weights, bullets, or toys
- Target shooting
- Using lead glazes in ceramics
- Backyard scrap metal recycling, & radiator repair
- Stained glass making
- Burning painted wood
- Refinishing old furniture

### Manufacturing
- Lead acid batteries
- Cable, wire products, solder
- Firearms, bullets, explosives
- Rubber or plastics

### Repair
- Automotive work
- Ship repair
- Welding, cutting, & sanding
- Grinding of lead alloys or lead-coated surfaces
- Soldering & electronics repair
- Repair work that disturbs lead paint

### Metal Working
- Foundry work, casting, forging
- Grinding
- Circuit board manufacturing and recycling
- Scrap metal recycling

### Other sources
- Cleanup at firing ranges
- Using lead-containing paints, inks, pigments, & glazes
- Working at municipal solid waste incinerators

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