

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND TENANTS

SAN FRANCISCO LEAD HAZARD NOTICE FOR PRE-1978 DWELLINGS

Lead poisoning is an invisible but very serious illness that can occur in people of all ages exposed to lead hazards. Lead is especially harmful to young children and developing fetuses. Even exposure to low levels of lead may cause permanent effects on children's learning abilities, attention span, hearing, and growth.

Children are most often exposed to lead when they put their hands in their mouths, after touching surfaces or objects in the home that have lead-contaminated dust. **Therefore, all young children should be tested for lead.** Doctors are required to test children at 12 months and 24 months who are enrolled in Medi-Cal; Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program; Healthy Families; and Women, Infant, and Child Program. Also, children from 25 to 72 months, who have never been tested, are to receive a blood lead test. All other children, who do not qualify for these programs, should be tested if deemed necessary by the medical provider or in response to parental concerns.

Lead was used in most house paint until 1978, when new laws greatly reduced the amount of lead allowed. Houses and buildings built before 1978 probably have lead-based paint under newer layers. When lead paint is damaged over time by neglect, impact, friction, or moisture, lead dust hazards are created. Also when lead paint is disturbed during renovation, construction, or painting, and dust or paint chips are not properly contained and cleaned up, lead dust remains inside the home or in the soil. Bare topsoil containing lead is a significant hazard, and children, adult, and pets can track lead dust from the soil into the home.

As a tenant, you have the right to a safe and habitable housing. Before you rent a unit, do a thorough inspection. Make sure that both the interior and exterior paint are in good condition. Look for signs of moisture damage. Request that peeling, flaking, or chipping paint be repaired before you accept the unit. You can help prevent lead hazards by keeping your home clean and telling your landlord if you see damaged paint.

As a landlord, you are advised to have a maintenance schedule for your rental units and do a visual inspection at least annually. These inspections will allow you to assess the upkeep of your property and address any unreported problems.

If you want to know more about how to protect you and your family from lead poisoning, you may call the following agencies:

- **General Information** (415) 554-8930
San Francisco Childhood Lead Prevention Program, Department of Public Health
- **EPA Landlord and Tenant Brochures** 1-800-424-LEAD
The Lead-Based Paint Pre-Renovation Education Rule Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home
- **List of Lead Certified Inspectors and Contractors (Workers/Supervisors)** 1-800-597-LEAD
California Department of Health Services