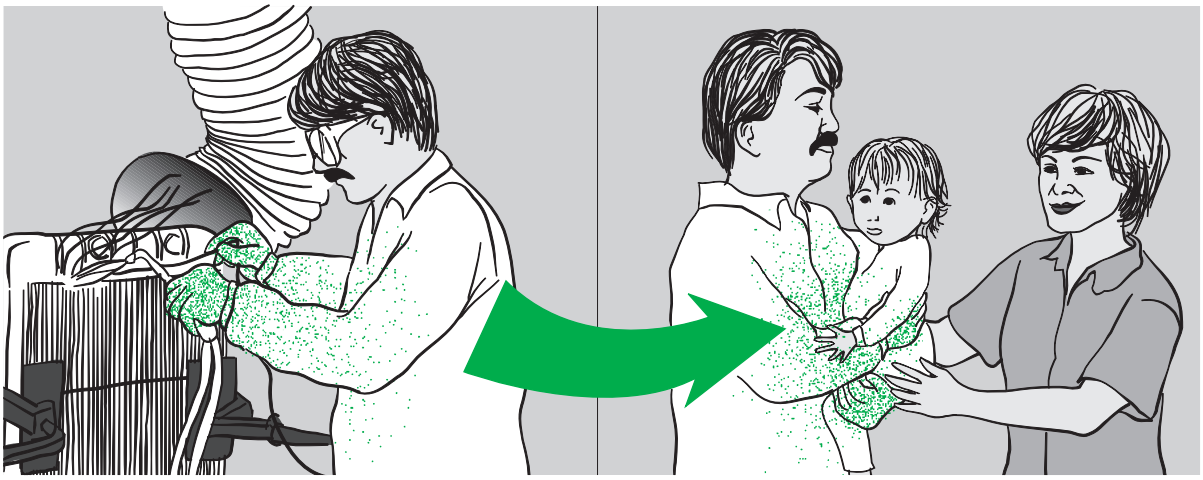
Don't take ***lead*** *home from your job!*

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 kinds of work make lead dust or fumes. You cannot see lead dust, but it can get on your hands, face, and clothes. You take 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 even more 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 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
- remove old paint
- tear down or remodel houses, buildings, tanks, or bridges
- solder
- work with scrap metal
- work at a shooting range

There are many other jobs where lead can be dangerous.

- **Ask your employer if you work with lead.** The law says your employer must tell you about anything at work which 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 which lists the ingredients in a product. Your employer must give you the MSDS if you ask for it. Look at "Section II" 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 on surfaces where there is lead paint. Your employer should test these surfaces before you work on them to see if they contain lead. You have a right to see the results of the tests.
- **Ask your doctor for a blood lead test.** Adults who are lead poisoned may feel tired, irritable, or get aches and pains. They may also have serious health problems without knowing it.

How can I protect my family from lead poisoning?

Change into clean clothes and shoes at work **before** you get into your car or go home. 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. (It is better to shower at work if you can.)

Wash work clothes separately from all other clothes. Empty your work clothes from the plastic bag directly into the washing machine and wash them. Run the empty washing machine again to rinse out the lead. (It is better if your employer washes the work clothes.)

The law says your employer must provide a place to wash your hands. In jobs where workers are exposed to high levels of lead, employers must also provide work clothes and a shower.

Does my employer have to protect my health?

Yes. Your employer must follow special laws to protect you from lead poisoning. To find out more about these laws, talk to your employer or your union representative, or call the Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (see below).

Where can I get help?

Information on lead at work

Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
California Department of Health Services

This program provides information about lead in the workplace, worker rights, and how to protect yourself from lead on the job. Call (866) 627-1587 toll-free in California. On the Web: www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb

Complaints about lead at work

Cal/OSHA (California Division of Occupational Safety and Health)

Talk to your employer if you think you have a lead problem at your job. If your employer does not fix the problem, you can call Cal/OSHA and ask for an inspection. Cal/OSHA will not tell your employer who made the call.

Call the Cal/OSHA office in your area, or call Cal/OSHA headquarters at (510) 286-7000.

Free blood lead testing

Your child may be able to get free health care, including tests for lead. To find out, call (800) 524-5323.

Lead dust in your home

Local lead poisoning prevention program

If you think you have a problem with lead dust in your home, contact your local health department.

Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION BRANCH

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

California Relay Service (800) 735-2929 or 711

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