



Center for
Urban Responses
to Environmental
Stressors



Lead Safe Home

FACT
SHEET

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY | DETROIT, MICHIGAN | WWW.CURES.WAYNE.EDU

Community Resources



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®
Detroit-Wayne County

GHHI Detroit-Wayne County is a collaborative dedicated to creating green, healthy and safe homes for children and families in Detroit and Wayne County.

To find out if you qualify for the following services call 313-473-7566

Lead Abatement Grants

• Home Repair Loans

• Utility and/or Water Assistance

• Refrigerator Replacement

• Free Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

• Home Safety Products and Education

• Energy Efficiency Education

• Asthma & Allergy Management



To learn more about CURES, contact Brian Smith at 313-577-5045 or brian.smith9@wayne.edu



What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that can be hazardous to human health, especially for children under 6 years of age.



Lead poisoning is **100%** preventable!

Tips For a Healthy Home



Don't let children eat paint chips or pick at peeling paint.

Get children under the age of 6 tested by a doctor every year. Make sure you get the results.



ALWAYS use cold tap water to cook or make bottles. Also, allow your water to run for 10 seconds before you first use it.

Take your shoes off before entering your home.



Wash children's hands, toys, pacifiers, and bottles often.



MORE TIPS from our friends at CLEARCorps on back. >



Research Dr. Doug Ruden leads a team of scientists at Wayne who test blood samples to study the way lead impacts people. His team found that babies are impacted by moms who were exposed to lead. "The way you think about it is: if a mother is pregnant with a baby, she's also carrying the baby's children too" Ruden says. "It's like Russian nesting dolls."

We asked Doug, if you could send one message to Detroiters based on what you know about lead, what would you say? "All kids under the age of 6 should be tested for lead." High lead levels may not show symptoms for awhile, but once you know lead is a problem, you can take steps to address it. **Contact the Lead Safe Home Program** at 313-924-4000 or 866-691-5323 for details.



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How to Protect Your Family and Home



1. Have Your Home Tested for Lead



- If your home was built before 1978 and you have a child under the age of 6 living there you may qualify for free help.



Contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services *Lead Safe Home Program* at 313-924-4000 or 866-691-5323.

2. Keep Children Away from Chipping Paint and Dust

- Use wet towels to remove dust. Be extra careful when cleaning play areas, and around windows and floors.
 - Use soap and water to clean hands and toys often.
 - Use contact paper or duct tape to cover chipping or peeling paint.



3. Repair your Home Safely

- Keep children and pregnant women away from work areas where sanding or scraping may happen. These can release lead particles into the air, which are dangerous if inhaled or touched.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION contact **Brian Smith** at Wayne State University: **313-577-5045**.

CLEAN SAFE

Directions for mopping floors:



- Fill one bucket with soapy water, and another with water to rinse the mop.
- Start mopping in corners farthest from the door and work your way back toward the door.
- Rinse the mop often.
- Change water often so you don't spread dirt around the floor.

Directions for window sills & surfaces:

- Spray window sills with cleaning solution from a spray bottle
- Clean from top to bottom.
- Wipe with paper towel.
- Change paper towel often.



For more assistance contact our partner CLEARCorps at (313) 924-4000

CURES Student Intern Report: Detroit Specific Lead Exposure



“Lead exposure occurs in day-to-day life, which is why it is essential to be aware of its possible sources. The most common source of exposure in Detroit is in lead-based paint but can also be found in dust, canned foods, car batteries, radiators, toys, or costume jewelry. Risk for lead-related illness is much larger in older homes than newer ones. Houses built before 1978 were painted with products that contained lead. Since then, paint can no longer contain lead. If an older home has the original paint, it is extremely likely to contain lead. As the paint peels, it can release lead particles into the air that can be inhaled or settle in our homes. There are many ways that people can find out if their house contains lead, and to help get rid of it.” – Maya Sopory

Questions about lead in soil? We can help! See our fact sheet on gardening.