

Possible signs to watch for...

Children can be exposed to the hazards of lead from the time they are born. Long-term exposure can affect their brain, heart, bones, kidneys, and nervous system. If your child has one or more of these symptoms for no apparent reason, lead may be present in your home:

- Stomachaches, cramping
- Sleep Disturbances
- Always tired – Lack of interest in playing or eating
- Anemia
- Irritability or aggressiveness
- Hyperactivity, being easily distracted
- Clumsiness
- Lower IQ
- Short attention span
- Learning problems
- Seizures

Many times there are no signs at all – a blood lead test is the only way to tell if your child has high levels of lead.

Landlords, contractors, and maintenance workers can also learn how to properly repair painted surfaces in homes through a “Lead-Safe Work Practice” certification program.



The funding for this project is from the proceeds of a special condition of a conditional discharge agreed to by the New York State Attorney General's Office arising from the prosecution of McWane, Inc. and Kennedy Valve in Elmira, NY. A joint project of the City of Elmira and the County of Chemung.

For more information about the Get the Lead Out program, contact the Chemung County Health Department.

Chemung County Health Department
103 Washington Street
Elmira, New York 14901
737-2028 phone
737-2016 fax
www.chemungcountyhealth.org
www.cityofelmira.net



What is Lead Poisoning?

Lead is a heavy metal found in paint used on the inside and outside of many homes built prior to 1978. It can also be found in dust, dirt and in certain hobby or building materials. Constant exposure to lead can cause many health problems in children of all ages. These problems can affect your child throughout their lifetime. In New York State, parents are required by law to have their children tested for lead at one year of age and again at two years of age. If caught early, lead poisoning can be prevented.

Get the Lead Out is a program sponsored jointly by the Chemung County Health Department and the City of Elmira to educate parents, homeowners, and landlords about how to keep children safe from lead paint where they live, learn, and play.

Safeguard Your Child Against Lead

One: Test your child

New York State law requires that parents must have their children tested for lead at one and two years of age. Paint that is chipping and peeling can create a lead dust that children can get on their hands or breathe in. While young children are most at risk because

they constantly put their hands in their mouth, children up to 18 years of age can be affected, too.

To have your child tested for lead, contact your pediatrician's office, or call the Chemung County Health Department at 737-2028. Either way, the test is FREE, fast, and accurate. Call for an appointment today!

Two: Test your home

If your child's test is positive for lead, the test results will be referred automatically to the Chemung County Health Department. A Lead Risk Assessor, certified by the Environmental Protection Agency, can conduct a FREE test of the painted surfaces in your home and provide immediate test results. The most common surfaces tested are doors, doorways, windows, floors, porches, and outside siding. If lead is found, the assessor will provide recommendations on how to make your home lead-free or lead-safe.

Landlords renting to families with young children also can have their houses or apartments tested by contacting the Chemung County Health Department Environmental Health Services Section directly at 737-2019.

Three: Make Your Home Lead Safe

Lead hazards in your home could include contributing lead items such as: window sills, exterior porches (floors & railings), interior doors and jambs, old peeling radiators and peeling exterior paint.

Money is available through the City of Elmira to assist eligible homeowners and landlords committed to making their houses or apartments located in Chemung County lead-free or lead-safe. Priority will be given to households with children under the age of 6 who have been identified as having elevated levels of lead. To find out if you qualify, contact the City of Elmira

Community Development Office
at 737-5695, or via e-mail at
rwheeler@cityofelmira.net.

