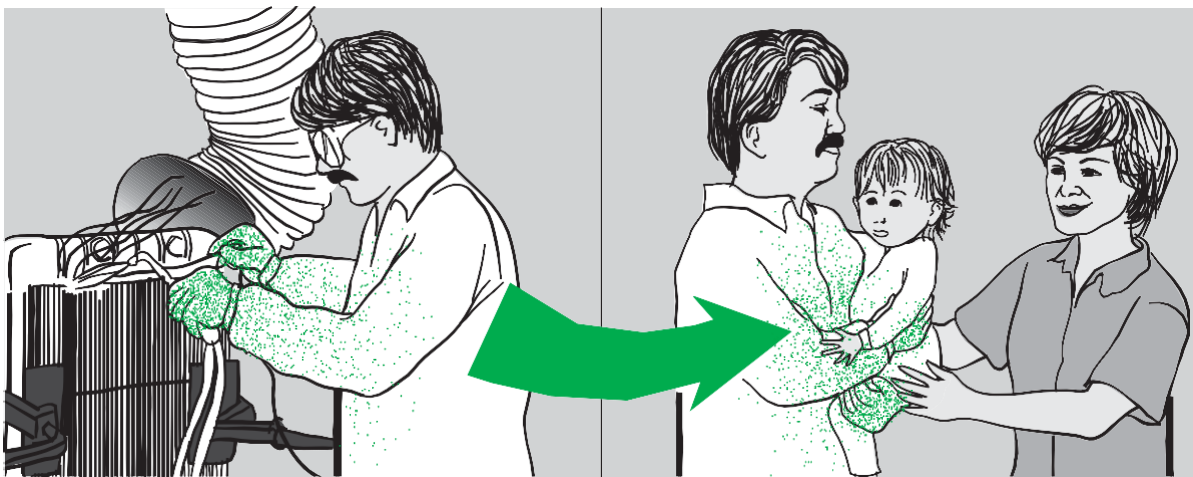


Don't take lead home from your job!

■ 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 can 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, 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 age six.

Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick.

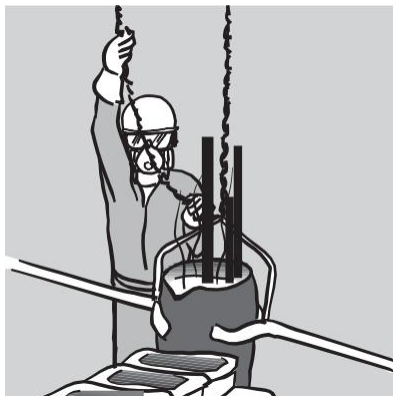
Ask your doctor to test your child's blood for lead. This is the only way to know if your child is being lead-poisoned.



■ 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 Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each product you use on the job.** An SDS is a form which lists the ingredients in a product. Your employer must give you the SDS if you ask for it. Look at “Section II” of the SDS 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?

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.



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 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.)

■ 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 DPH Occupational Health Surveillance Program (see below).

■ Where can I get information?

Lead at work

Georgia Occupational Health Surveillance Program

Georgia Department of Public Health

This program collects data on work-related injuries, illnesses, and hazards in Georgia and conducts follow-back and intervention activities for adults with elevated blood lead. Call (404) 657-2588 to contact this program.

Web: dph.georgia.gov/georgia-occupational-health-and-safety-surveillance-program

Georgia Tech Consultation Program

Safety, Health, and Environmental Services

This program provides free, confidential, on-site consultation for small companies (fewer than 250 employees and not more than 500 employees corporate wide) that need assistance in occupational safety and health. Call (404) 894-4121 to contact this program. Web: oshainfo.gatech.edu/about

Lead dust in your home

Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Georgia Department of Public Health

This program monitors for lead exposure and provides case management and environmental investigations for lead poisoned children. Call (404) 656-2459 to contact this program. Web: dph.ga.gov/lead

Blood lead testing

To find out about testing for your child contact your child's doctor or your local health department to inquire about screening.

