

## The Dangers of Lead

Lead poisoning affects nearly 1 million young children in the United States. Lead poisoning causes behavioral problems, learning disabilities, decreased intelligence, and other health problems. Because lead poisoned children don't necessarily appear sick, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Vermont Department of Health recommend that all young children be tested at ages 1 and 2.

Although deteriorated paint is the most common cause, children can also be poisoned from other sources such as soil containing lead from car exhaust, water pipes, lead-glazed ceramic dishware and plastic mini-blinds. The only way to be absolutely sure your children are safe is to have them tested.

While poisoning can occur when a child eats paint chips or mouths painted surfaces, it is more common for children to ingest lead dust coming from chipping, peeling, or flaking paint. The dust clings to toys, fingers, and other objects that young children put in their mouths. For more information, talk to your child's doctor or contact:

### Healthy Homes Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Vermont Department of Health  
108 Cherry St., Burlington, VT 05402  
Toll-free Lead Hotline: 1-800-439-8550 or  
802-863-7220

## Vermont's Lead Poisoning Prevention Law

Vermont law requires the owners of rental housing and day care centers built before 1978 to perform certain Essential Maintenance Practices (emps) to reduce health risks related to lead paint. emps include inspection of painted surfaces, fixing any problems using safe methods, installing liners in window wells to make them easy to clean, and performing periodic specialized cleaning. The law requires owners or maintenance personnel to take a short course on the dangers of lead and how to safely address potential hazards (call us for a [schedule of free emp trainings](#)).

Properties participating in the program receive a higher level of treatment than required by law, affording owners additional protections and peace of mind. Rental property owners should contact the Vermont Department of Health for more information on their obligations under the law.

## Other Lead Safety Resources

**Lead Safe Vermont Website** This website has information for homeowners, landlords, renters and contractors, including schedules for free training in Essential Maintenance Practices: [www.leadSAFEvermont.org](http://www.leadSAFEvermont.org)

### Vermont Department of Health

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-environment/asbestos-lead-buildings/lead>

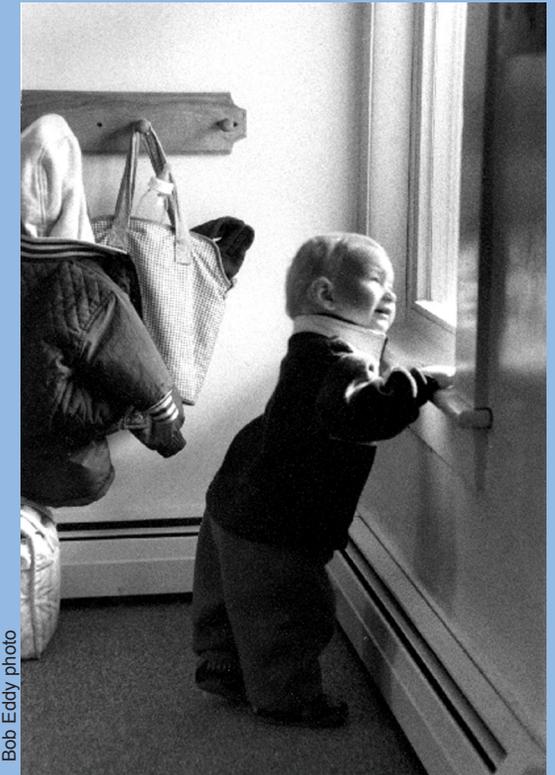
### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

### U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

[www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/healthy\\_homes](http://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes)

## VHCB Healthy & Lead-Safe Homes Program



Bob Eddy photo

Providing technical and financial assistance to landlords and homeowners to reduce hazards due to lead-based paint in Vermont's housing.

**802-828-5064**

a program of the

**Vermont Housing & Conservation Board**

58 East State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

[www.vhcb.org/lead](http://www.vhcb.org/lead)

## VHCB Healthy & Lead-Safe Homes Program

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The Healthy and Lead-Safe Homes Program seeks to reduce lead hazards in Vermont's housing stock by providing technical and financial assistance to landlords and homeowners throughout the state.



**A window well with deteriorating lead paint — a common site for lead poisoning.**

## Program Goals

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- To reduce the exposure of Vermont children to lead paint and other sources of lead exposure
- To increase public awareness about the hazards of lead paint
- To promote safe and effective methods of reducing lead paint hazards
- To provide money to homeowners, landlords, and nonprofit agencies to reduce lead hazards in housing
- To collect information on the most cost effective techniques for lead paint hazard reduction

## Services Available

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The following services are available at no cost to the owners of eligible properties:

- Testing of all painted surfaces
- Risk assessment and specification development
- Bidding assistance and project management
- Dust sampling and lab analysis
- Lead Poisoning Safety Education

## Eligibility

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Homes or apartments constructed before 1978 with at least one bedroom may be eligible for assistance. Highest priority is given to properties occupied by lead poisoned children and where "home-based" day care centers operate. Properties must generally be in good repair and have no serious structural problems. If located in a flood hazard area, the property must have flood insurance.

Additional restrictions apply:

### Rental Units:

- The tenant's income cannot exceed 80% of the median income for the area.
- Owner must rent to income-eligible family for 3 years.

### Owner-Occupied Homes:

- The homeowner's income cannot exceed 80% of the median income for the area.
- Must be primary residence.

**For more information,  
call (802) 828-5064 or visit:  
[www.vhcb.org/lead](http://www.vhcb.org/lead)**

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**Victoria House, Brattleboro — interior and exterior lead paint hazard reduction work**

## Loans and Grants

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A combination of grants and interest-free, deferred loans (payable upon sale of the property) are provided to pay for lead hazard reduction work. Under certain circumstances, up to 50% of the deferred loan can be forgiven.

**Apartments:** Each apartment is eligible for a total of up to \$15,000 with up to \$4,500 as a grant and up to \$10,500 as a deferred loan.

**Homeowners** are eligible to receive a total of up to \$25,000 with up to \$10,000 as a grant and up to \$15,000 as a deferred loan. Depending on the cost of the project and the availability of funds, owners may be required to complete some finish work such as final painting.