



Children's Toys & Products: What's in Your Child's Toy Box and Around Your Home?

Recent media attention has focused on millions of children's toys tainted with lead and other toxins that are dangerous, if ingested, by children. The resulting toy recalls by giant toy manufacturers like Fisher-Price and Mattel have been confusing and hard to follow.

How can you know whether or not the toy train that your toddler loves is tainted? What about the teething ring that your niece chews on daily or the baby bottles that you use? Here are some resources that will allow you to check the content of your children's toys and other products used in and around the home.

RESOURCES

- For the latest toy recalls from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, visit www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/category/toy.html or call the consumer hotline at (800) 638-2772.
- Visit www.HealthyToys.org to see the testing results of over 1,200 children's products.
- The "virtual house", containing information on toxins in toys and other children's products, from the Children's Health Environment Coalition's website is online at www.chechnet.org/healthhouse/virtualhouse/index.asp.
- For information from Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, call the Michigan Department of Community Health at (517) 335-8885 or visit www.michigan.gov/leadsafe.
- To reach the Michigan Lead Safe Partnership's website, visit www.gettheleadout.org.
- To reach the Lead and Healthy Homes Section of the Department of Community Health, call (517) 335-9390.
- The Environmental Protection Agency produced a guide that explains lead-removal techniques to home owners. The document can be downloaded online at www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/rpamph.pdf.

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FAST FACTS

Plastic baby bottles, along with plastic water bottles and other polycarbonate plastic containers, are made with Bisphenol-A (BPA) which was invented in the 1930s. Adults eliminate BPA from their systems quickly without obvious health impacts. Yet, exposure to BPA can alter the biological systems of children for the rest of their lives.

Unborn babies can be exposed to toxins through their mother and may run a risk of life-long developmental problems or learning difficulties.

Lead-based paint was banned in 1978, yet it continues to be the biggest source of lead exposure in Michigan's children.

Thousands of household products sold each year contain toxic ingredients. Drain and oven cleaners, pesticides, and furniture polish are a few examples.

Lead can be found in products around your house such as antique furniture, costume and children's jewelry, and the glaze on some pottery and older bathtubs.

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