



CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR A SOURCE OF LEAD TO BE A HAZARD

Source	Conditions for a source to be a hazard	Other information
Lead-based paint	Peeling, flaking, chipping, chalking; Subject to friction or abrasion; Being chewed by a child; areas undergoing renovation.	Highest levels and greatest prevalence of lead in housing built before 1950; lead-based paint used until 1978.
Lead-contaminated dust	Guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recommend that the following interior house dust lead levels, determined by wipe sampling, be used for risk assessment: 100 µg/ft ² for carpeted or uncarpeted floors; 500 µg/ft ² for window sills and 800 µg/ft ² for window wells (troughs). Lead-contaminated dust is most likely to be hazardous to children because of the potential for ingestion when it is on surfaces with which children or their toys have frequent direct contact.	
Lead-contaminated soil	Interim EPA guidelines call for exposure-reduction activities (e.g., using ground cover to create a barrier over contaminated soil) when lead levels in bare residential soil are between 400 and 5000 parts per million. Permanent abatement (e.g., removal and replacement) of bare residential soil is recommended when lead concentrations exceed 5000 parts per million. The HUD guidelines ¹ propose that exterior dust- lead levels in excess of 800 µg/ft ² constitute a lead hazard. Lead levels in exterior urban dust frequently exceed those found in nearby soil. In investigating the environment of a child with an elevated BLL, the focus should be on testing bare exterior soil (or dust) with which the child has frequent direct contact or which can be easily tracked into the home on shoes or pets. Contaminated soil is most often found around the foundations of older homes that have been painted with exterior lead-based paint and around homes adjacent to heavily trafficked roadways.	