

Take-Home Lead Exposure



What is take-home lead?

Lead residue can:

- Be unknowingly brought home from your work or hobby
- Be passed on to your children and other family members
- Result from activities that create lead dust that is odorless and invisible to the naked eye
- Attach to clothing, shoes, skin, hair, and other personal belongings while at work
- Spread to furniture, floors, and other objects once you arrive home
- Endanger children when they touch lead-contaminated furniture, floors and other items and put their hands in their mouths.
- Cause learning difficulties and health problems in children

Jobs or hobbies associated with take-home lead:

- Demolishing or remodeling houses, buildings, tanks, or bridges
- Painting or removing old paint
- Making bullets
- Making or fixing radiators or batteries, painting ceramics
- Welding or soldering
- Plumbing
- Making jewelry
- Making stained-glass
- Refinishing furniture



Steps to take to prevent take-home lead exposure:

- Wear protective equipment, including a respirator.
- Wash hands before eating, drinking, smoking, touching your face.
- Shower, wash your hair and change into clean clothes and shoes before leaving work. Do not take contaminated work clothes and shoes home.
- Before entering the house, remove shoes worn while walking in work buildings or parking lot. Bring clothes in a sealed bag.
- Avoid taking other contaminated items from work to your home, such as travel coffee mugs or gloves.
- Cover vehicle seats and floor mats with washable coverings and wash weekly.

Before you leave work:

1



Shower

2



Change clothes and shoes

3



Wash work clothes separately

If you work with lead, take these steps to protect your family

While at work:

Follow protocols for staying clean during work breaks.

Protect your personal belongings from lead exposure:

Glasses, Cellphone, Watch, Hats, and Keys

These are items small children may want to play with or put in their mouths.

Leave these items at home, in your car, or place in a clean locker room before work.

Do **NOT** eat in work area, keep lunch items in the break room

Do **NOT** go to car during breaks at work

ALWAYS wash hands and face with soap and water before eating, drinking or smoking

For more information, visit msdh.ms.gov/lead

or call the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program
at 601-576-7447.



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH