Why would house dust have lead in it?

Homes built before 1978 most likely have lead in the paint. A room might be painted over with safe paint, but around the windows the original lead-based paint will continue to flake and fall off, creating dust when the windows are opened and closed.

Clothing worn for work in mining, auto mechanics, and construction industries, or activities outside the home in nonremediated areas or that entail digging below the clean barrier, have the potential to accumulate lead dust. Clean clothing often as well as the areas these items are stored.

Animals that play outside, especially in nonremediated areas, such as the Lower Basin, along the South Fork, and on mine sites, should be bathed frequently.

For more information

Panhandle Health District
35 Wildcat Way
Kellogg, ID 83837
(208) 783-0707
panhandlehealthdistrict.org/icp

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1005 W. McKinley Ave.
Kellogg, ID 83837
(208) 783-5781
www.deq.idaho.gov/bunkerhillsuperfundsite

www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean

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Protect Your Family From Lead At Home

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Panhandle Health District

Panhandle Health District

Lead in my water?

Lead can get into your home's drinking water when service pipes that contain lead corrode. The most common problem is with brass or chrome–plated brass faucets and fixtures with lead solder.

If your home was built before 1986, it is more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures, and solder.

How do I know if there's lead in my water?

It must be tested. Contact the Panhandle Health District (PHD) or local analytical lab for information about testing.

How can I reduce lead in my home's drinking water?

Let your faucet run for a few minutes before drinking to flush out any lead that has accumulated from sitting.

Only use cold water for eating and drinking. Hot water is more likely to contain lead. Flushing your faucet and letting the water get as cold as possible is best.

Use water filters. Boiling or treating your water will not remove lead.

Did you know?

- Lead is more dangerous for children than adults because children's growing bodies absorb more lead. Children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead, such as behavioral and hearing problems, slowed growth, and headaches.
- Lead dust ingested can harm your unborn child.
- Children can seem healthy even with high levels of lead in their bodies.
- Lead enters your bloodstream after breathing or swallowing lead dust.
- High blood lead in adults can result in difficulties during pregnancy, reproductive issues, high blood pressure, digestive problems, nerve disorders, memory and concentration problems, and muscle and joint pain.

How can I make sure my child does not have high blood lead levels?

Lead exposure often occurs with no obvious symptoms and can go unrecognized. Testing is the only way to know if your child has been exposed.

Contact PHD to find out about free blood lead screening or contact your primary health care provider to arrange a test. Follow up! Keep testing your child's blood for lead, especially if previous tests indicated high lead levels.

How to keep a lead free home!

- Vacuum, vacuum, vacuum! Vacuums with HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters are free to borrow from PHD for household cleaning.
- Wet mop and damp dust weekly.
- Clean mops and rags after each use.
- Clean or remove shoes and dirty clothing before entering your home. Clean closets or storage areas often!
- Clean play areas! Clean toys and the containers holding them. If toys come in from outside, make sure to clean them first!
- Wash hands often! Adults and children should wash hands before eating and sleeping.
- Repair peeling or disturbed paint and keep children away from these areas.

Separate your family from areas in homes being renovated or remodeled. Use a licensed contractor. Contact PHD for the following supplies:

- Plastic to tape off the living space from the area being remodeled, cutting down on dust
- HEPA filter masks
- Gloves
- Tyvek suits and garbage bags for insulation