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## Lead-Based Paint and Real Estate

In 1991 the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services called lead the "number one health threat to children in the United States." In 1992, The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act was created. The act requires potential buyers and renters to receive information regarding potential lead in a property that was built prior to 1978. The act became effective in late 1996.

The most significant exposure to lead is from old paint. Exposure to lead can affect adults but, by far, has its most pronounced affect on children. Lead exposure can cause brain damage; affect a child's growth; damage kidneys; impair hearing; cause vomiting, headaches, and appetite loss; and

### Not Just in Homes

Other sources of potential exposure include:

Soil—High levels of lead in soil can be attributed to leaded gasoline emissions.

Drinking water—If the pipes that carry the water contain lead, drinking water can also be affected.

or six-month check up if they are at risk.

Lead inspectors can determine if a property contains lead-based paint by using XRF (x-ray) instruments. Alternatively, a risk assessor can be hired to take paint samples and have them analyzed by a laboratory. The Environmental Protection Agency does not advocate the use of do-it-yourself testing kits as they have not been found to be reliable or accurate.

For further information on lead-based paint hazards visit: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/lead.html>.

### Did you Know?

DataChem has three sister laboratories located in the United States:

Specializing in radiochemistry, [Paragon Analytics](#) is located in Ft. Collins Colorado.

Covering Industrial Hygiene and Environmental, [DataChem Laboratories](#) is located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Addressing Environmental concerns, [CCI Analytical](#) is located in Everett, Washington.

For additional information on any one of our labs contact us at 1-800-356-9135 or visit [www.datachem.com](http://www.datachem.com).

## Analysis of the Month

### Lead

For the month of September, DataChem's Salt Lake lab is offering **Lead Analysis using NIOSH 7082 for \$10**. For further details contact us at [info@datachem.com](mailto:info@datachem.com). For a complete list of our Salt Lake lab services [click here](#).

To take advantage of the offer simply refer to the newsletter in your analytical request. Discount is only available at our Salt Lake facility.



Lead paint can easily be inadvertently ingested by an unsuspecting child.

## Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure

If your home has lead paint, do not try to remove the lead from your home yourself. Improper removal can often make the situation worse. To locate trained service providers contact 1-888-LEAD-LIST.

Test the water from each faucet in your home to determine if the plumbing or fixtures are contaminating your water supply.

Mop floors and wipe window ledges and other areas with soapy water. If available, tri-sodium phosphate or lead-specific cleaning products can be used.

Keep the areas where children like to play as clean and dust free as possible.

Keep children away from areas where paint is chipped or peeling. Stop children from chewing on window sills or other painted surfaces.

Make sure everyone washes their hands before meals, naptime and bedtime.

If your child's bottle or pacifier falls on the floor, wash it before giving it back to your child.

Wash toys, stuffed animals and bedding regularly.

Send children or pets to a relative's or neighbor's house if you plan to renovate your house. Infants, children, and pregnant women should not be in the home while renovations are under way. Exposure to lead dust is hazardous.

If you are pregnant, take as much care to avoid exposing yourself to lead as you would for your child. Lead can pass through your body to your unborn baby and cause health problems.

Eat a well balanced diet with food that contain iron and calcium; this results in less lead being absorbed.

Do not store food or drink in containers made from crystal, because some crystal contains lead.

*The above excerpt was taken from the National Safety Councils Indoor Air Quality Fact Sheet. For further information visit [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org).*

### Lead Facts

Exposure to lead paint can be harmful to children and adults.

Seventy-five percent of homes built prior to 1978 contain some lead-based paint.

Temporary measures to reduce lead exposure range from following specified cleaning techniques to good nutrition.

Permanent measures include component removal and replacement, paint removal and covering painted surfaces.