

**I Am Concerned About My Children, What Should I Do?**

1. Tell you health care provider your children may have been exposed to lead.
2. Ask your health care provider about having your children, especially one to two year old children, tested for lead. This is a blood test.

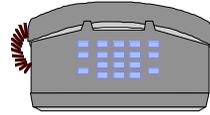


as lead-based paint in homes built before 1978. Lead-based paint is the most common high-dose

source of lead for children under age six.

2. Contact your local health department or the resources provided in this pamphlet.

**To Learn More About Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Call The Following Resources**

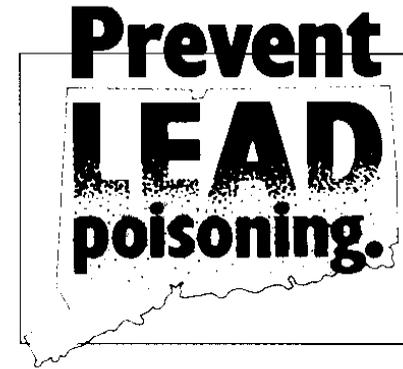


**State of Connecticut**  
Department of Public Health  
*Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*

(860) 509-7745  
or  
(860) 509-7299

**National Lead Information Center**  
(800) LEAD-FYI

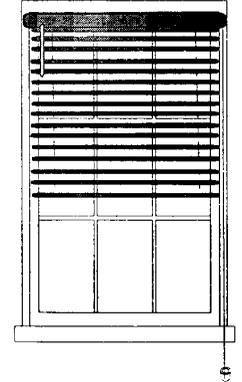
**National Lead Information Clearinghouse**  
(800) 424-LEAD



**Childhood Lead Poisoning Is Preventable!**

**Learn About It Today!**

**What You Need to Know About Childhood Lead Poisoning and Imported Vinyl Mini-Blinds**



State of Connecticut  
Department of Public Health  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
410 Capitol Avenue  
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(860) 509-7745  
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### **What Mini-Blinds Are Made With Lead?**

Some imported non-glossy vinyl mini-blinds *made before July 1996* have been found to contain lead. Beginning July 1996, vinyl mini-blinds were no longer made with lead.

Each year twenty-five million non-glossy vinyl mini-blinds are imported from China, Taiwan, Mexico, and Indonesia. Lead was added to make the plastic in the blinds stronger. Tin is now added to make the plastic stronger.

However, stores that **have imported** vinyl mini-blinds made with lead can still sell them.

### **How Do Lead Mini-Blinds Cause a Danger to Young Children?**

Imported vinyl mini-blinds exposed to prolonged sunlight and heat may deteriorate. A thin layer of leaded dust may form on the surface. This dust is a danger to young children.

Young children, especially those between the ages of one and two, can swallow the

lead dust by wiping their hands on the blinds and then putting their hands in their mouths. They can also swallow the lead dust by chewing on the blinds.

Children under the age of six are at the greatest risk of lead poisoning. They are more likely to swallow lead dust from the mini-blinds than older children.

### **How Lead Affects Young Children**

At low exposure levels, the effects may not be obvious. But low levels of lead exposure may:

- ⇒ affect children's behavior
- ⇒ make learning difficult
- ⇒ harm hearing
- ⇒ interfere with growth
- ⇒ affect children's development

### **What Should I Do About Vinyl Mini-Blinds In My Home?**

1. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that you remove the imported vinyl mini-blinds, made before July 1996, if you have children, age six and under, present in your home.
2. Contact the store where you purchased the mini-blinds. Some stores will take the blinds back and provide a refund or credit.

### **Directions for Removing Lead Mini-Blinds Safely**

1. Before you begin, remove your children from the rooms you are working in.
1. Wear a pair of disposable gloves.
2. Mist the window and blinds with water. This will help keep the dust down. 
3. Draw up the blinds. Tape the slats with masking tape or duct tape.

4. Remove the blind from the window bracket. Place the blind in a plastic garbage bag. The entire blind should fit in the bag.
5. Wipe the entire window area and sill with a wet cloth. Place the dirty cloth and disposable gloves in the plastic bag.
1. Tie the bag with masking tape or duct tape.



1. Place the bag in a trash can outside. Throw it away with your regular household trash.

### **How Can I Tell Which Mini-Blinds Are Made Without Lead?**

The package will have labeling such as:

- ⇒ New Formulation,
- ⇒ Non-Leaded Formula,
- ⇒ No Lead Added, or
- New! Non-Leaded Vinyl Formulation.

The new non-leaded blinds should sell for about the same price as the old blinds.