

This is a transcript of the Feb. 26, 2008, LIVE Web chat on WFSB.com and Eyewitness News about the potential dangers of lead.

wfsb	Welcome to Eyewitness News and WFSB.com! We hope you find this forum informative to help protect you and your family
nplatt	Hello! What is the take home message for families?
wfsb	Thank you for your question! Our experts are working on an answer for you. Stay tuned!
Dr._Slivka	If there is a child under 6 years of age and you are concerned about lead exposure, get their blood lead level checked.
Ronald_Kraatz	For all housing built before 1978, know that lead is a potential hazard. Any work done on the home should use lead-safe work
nplatt	Hi! What is your stance on blood lead testing of all Medicaid and Head Start/Early Head Start children? What prompted this
wfsb	Thank you for your question! Our experts are working on an answer for you. Stay tuned!
Dr._Slivka	All children who are enrolled in Medicaid are required to have blood lead testing at 1 and 2 years of age. This was mandated due to these children at higher risk for lead poisoning. Starting Jan. 2009, all children in the state of Connecticut will be
wfsb	Thanks for the questions! Please feel free to ask more.
wfsb	Doctor, Mr. Kraatz, could you please explain why lead could be potentially dangerous to young people?
wfsb	If you're just joining us, thank you for logging on! Eyewitness News invites you to ask questions you may have about lead
Dr._Slivka	Young children are more susceptible to lead poisoning because their brains are still developing. Lead affects brain and neuron
higgins79	Nowadays, where it seems like lead danger is everywhere, how much is too much? I mean I have young children who always have some thing in their mouths. Is it only dangerous when ingested a lot or is once enough to cause damage? And exactly
wfsb	Thank you for your question! Our experts are working on an answer for you. Stay tuned!
wfsb	Thanks for logging on kaylah2003! We hope you will feel free to ask our experts a question.
mike(Q)	hello
wfsb(A)	Hi, Mike! Thanks so much for logging on! We hope you'll feel free to ask our experts a question.
wfsb	Thanks to everyone for submitting your questions to Eyewitness News! Our experts will answer each question in turn. Feel
Dr._Slivka	Even a small paint chip that is eaten can cause a significant elevation in a child's lead level. Most young children have lots of hand to mouth activity. It is important to make sure that the products in your home do not have lead components. High levels
Ronald_Kraatz	The lower the exposure, the better since there is no known safe level of lead in a child's body and lead gives no benefit to the child. The greatest hazard is from lead-based paint in housing. Deteriorated lead-based paint, paint on friction and impact
tom(Q)	hello dr.
wfsb(A)	Hello, Tom, thanks for logging on!
Roger_S.(Q)	Hi everyone - hopefully so good dialog and constructive results will be spawned from this live chat
wfsb(A)	Thanks for logging on Roger_S!
GFU(Q)	Hello there. I own a Pottery Studio in CT and have a few questions
wfsb(A)	Please feel free to ask!
ljwarren05	How can I get Lead testing done in my house? How much will it cost?
Ronald_Kraatz	There are licensed consultants that can do lead testing. These are listed on the CT Dept. of Public Health website (lead
GFU	What are long term effects of high lead levels
clubbabaluu(Q)	Is one of the pottery studios in West Hartford? I just caught the end of this segment and didn't see which stores were tested.
wfsb(A)	Eyewitness News has posted Eric Parker's story on WFSB.com, the video and the information can be viewed in its entirety on
wfsb	We appreciate your patience as our experts construct their responses! Thanks for the questions!
Dr._Slivka	At lower levels of elevated lead, children may have developmental delays, like difficulty with speech, or reading. They may
mike	how can one get tested if concerned, and where can I get more information on lead exposure prevention for children and
Dr._Slivka	your pediatrician can check your child's blood for lead
Dr._Slivka	An adult can ask their physician for a lead test .

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Ronald_Kraatz	Costs vary by the size of the property and complexity. Cost for testing a single family house of average size might run \$400 to \$500 with an additional cost to develop a plan to remove hazards of perhaps \$300 to \$500. If one assumes that all paint is
bearsy	my daughter & I spent many hours at a paint your own pottery shop while she was pregnant - should we be concerned?
gymmom	Should I be concerned that my daughter does clay & pottery classes at her middle school in art class. The pieces that they
wfsb	Thank you for your questions! Our experts are working on an answer for you. Stay tuned!
Dr._Slivka	If you have spent many hours in a pottery shop, you may want to get tested for lead. If it was a one time visit, there is not a lot
Dr._Slivka	To get more information WFSB.com has links on their web site. It will direct you to the state of CT or other lead organizations.
Ronald_Kraatz	The CT Department of Public Health website (Lead Program) has a lot of good information.
sheilaouellette06	how can I test toys that I bought at a thrift store to make sure they are not contaminated with lead?
tom	if a pottery studio has exclusively used non toxic glazes on it's pottery, there should be no problem right?
wfsb	Thank you for your questions! Our experts are working on answers for you. Stay tuned!
Dr._Slivka	The schools in Connecticut do not use any leaded glaze or paint. you could double check with your school board
Dr._Slivka	Toys must be sent to a commercial lab for testing.
kaleigh	We hear a lot about the effects of lead on children. How do the health consequences of lead exposure differ in adults?
Ronald_Kraatz	You could request the school to check for lead in the materials and in the shop. Your local health department might be able to
Dr._Slivka	There is a list of recalled toys on the State of CT web site
Ronald_Kraatz	Tom: I do not know how the shop defines "non-toxic" glazes. Better to know that lead containing materials are not used.
khillman	Can it be absorbed into the skin from painting on top of there skin? Or does it have to be injected.
GFU	How much lead is dangerous to children?
Dr._Slivka	Adults do not need to worry as much about the brain effects. Adults will get hypertension, numbness in their hands and feet,
kaylah2003	are symptoms of lead exposure immediate.... lets say i was exposed to lead dust on friday can symptoms start on saturday?
Dr._Slivka	Lead does have very little absorption on the skin. But that is not the most common way to get lead poisoning. The lead would
sheilaouellette06	is there some type of product that we can buy to check for lead such as a wipe? I buy toys from goodwill for my granddaughter
Ronald_Kraatz	GFU - There is no known safe level of lead for children. Negative impacts have been identified at very low levels, much lower
Dr._Slivka	Symptoms depend on the level of lead exposure. If one had a very large exposure and had a very high lead level--you could
ted	is the pottery safe to use that has been made with lead products
Ronald_Kraatz	The federal government has studied the quick home tests for lead and concluded that they are not reliable.
Dr._Slivka	Pottery that has been made with lead products is not safe for eating or drinking.
gina	should I be concerned if we have pieces of pottery in our home?
wfsb	RE: Schools -- From Dr._Slivka: The schools in Connecticut do not use any leaded glaze or paint. you could double check with
Dr._Slivka	Pottery made out of the country may be made with lead. It is recommended to not use these for eating or drinking.
Concernedparent	But I drank water through lead pipes when I was a child, does it pose a real risk in the short term?
wfsb	Alesia - Ronald_Kraatz: The federal government has studied the quick home tests for lead and concluded that they are not
kaleigh	Can the level of lead in your system be tested through routine blood panels or is there a specific test that must be performed
Dr._Slivka	Drinking from leaded pipes a long time ago does not pose any risk to you now.
gail	Is the problem with a child eating the paint ? Is there another problem with the fumes from the kiln that fires the pieces? are
Dr._Slivka	To test for lead, your doctor simply orders a blood lead test. It is a test done alone without other heavy metals being tested
Paul	Hello everyone. I am a carpenter and come in contact with lead flashings and old piping occasionally. Am I in danger touching
khillman(Q)	Sorry to ask again but, how do we find out what pottery studios were tested for lead and the results.
wfsb(A)	No problem! Here's the link: http://www.wfsb.com/iteam/15406265/detail.html

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Dr._Slivka	A child can get lead poisoned from many sources. One of the sources is eating paint chips. However, there can be lead dust from deteriorating paint or construction. There are many objects that contain lead. There can also be fumes from kilns if
gina	my children are 4 and 6 years old. the pottery pieces we have are banks that are kept on shelves. should we have the pieces
luvbug(Q)	do they sell something for home use to test toys?
wfsb(A)	wfsb: luvbug - Ronald_Kraatz: The federal government has studied the quick home tests for lead and concluded that they are
Dr._Slivka	gina: It is safe to have the pottery in the house if no one is playing with it or touching it.
Ronald_Kraatz	Paul - You are likely to get lead dust on your hands, so avoiding hand-to-mouth actions (eating, smoking,etc) is important.
lindsay	my daughter recently got a lead test from her Dr. last week and it read 15.6. How do I find out where it is coming from?
Dr._Slivka	Any pieces of pottery that have any lead products on them should not be used with any food or drink.
DrPepperBebe2009(Q)	what are side effects of the injection on lead. what can it do to you?
wfsb(A)	DrPepperBebe2009 -- Dr._Slivka: At lower levels of elevated lead, children may have developmental delays, like difficulty with
Ronald_Kraatz	There are no reliable home tests for lead.
Judy(Q)	I have several items that were made at a pottery shop. Two things that I am concerned about are salt and pepper shakers and
wfsb(A)	Judy -- Dr._Slivka: Any pieces of pottery that have any lead products on them should not be used with any food or drink.
bearsy	Where can I test a piece of ptery that I made - I've been using it for my granddaughter's cereal(infant granddaughter)
alesia	I have a bowl, use it to hold fruit. Its galzed. is safe to use?
artcert(Q)	How will all this affect school pottery classes?
wfsb(A)	artcert -- Dr._Slivka: The schools in Connecticut do not use any leaded glaze or paint. you could double check with your school
Dr._Slivka	Lindsay: First, you need to make certain you have a venous blood lead test and not a finger stick. The lead level must be "confirmed" with the test from the vein. If it is still >10, then you can talk to your health department. We also have programs for
Ronald_Kraatz	bearsy - You should stop using it for food until you know for sure about the lead content.
salli	Am I correct to think that the ceramic pieces I may be purchasing, may have lead in them due to the dust or fumes from the
kaleigh	So even if bloodwork shows normal liver and kidney functions, as well as all other results returning within normal levels, these
shell(Q)	I have a drinking glass that I painted recently at a local pottery shop in West Hartford. Should I get rid of it? I do have two
wfsb(A)	shell -- Ronald_Kraatz: You should stop using it for food until you know for sure about the lead content.
Concernedparent	How serious is this amount of exposure?
Ronald_Kraatz	Judy - The lead content can be still available after glazing and firing. The glazing can be the problem. These should not be
dave_c	My daughter worked in pottery making store in w.htfd for about 1 year. she is in college now. she last worked there a couple of
Dr._Slivka	alesia: I can not tell if your bowl has lead glaze. If the glaze is leaded, it should not be used.
salli	how do i find out what craft items may contain lead
nplatt	What signs can we look for to see if our plumbing is lead piping or lead welded?
Dr._Slivka	kaleigh: Even if all other tests are normal, you still need to get a blood lead level to see if you have been exposed to lead.
lindsay	it was just a fingerstick. we're getting her blood work done this week. how does lead get out of a child?
khillman	thank you for all your help.
wfsb	Thanks for your question, khillman!
Sharon	HOw do we test articles from here or abroad? I recently tried to buy some dishes NOT from china, it was difficult. My daughter
wfsb	Thank you everyone for all your questions! We have about a half-hour left. We're going to give our experts a second to catch
Dr._Slivka	salli: Many craft items have lead. You have to find out specifically from the store.
Ronald_Kraatz	nplatt - Lead piping is present in some very old housing but has not been used for a long time, although it does linger in some
Dr._Slivka	DaveC: If your daughter is older, like in her teens, lead exposure is not as dangerous as it is for younger kids. You could have

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salli(Q)	I want to thank all of your for your help. This was very nice of all of you to do. Thank you.
wfsb(A)	Thanks so much sallli.
Dr._Slivka	Khillman: Your welcome
concerned	Do the symptoms mimic any other medical conditions?
salli	I purchase greenware for children to paint as a craft. The paint I get is craft paint and has no lead in it. But do the *pieces* I
Dr._Slivka	Salli: I don't know about greenware. The State of Connecticut Lead Web site is an excellent source to find out about different
Ronald_Kraatz	Sharon - Testing dishes, etc. can be done through laboratories. The home test kits are not reliable. Occasionally, events are
salli	thanks again
Sharon	Please continue to inform us and let us know what WE can do to get some home testing available, I am not happy with some
ghanes	A change of pace: I'm with the City of Boise. Idaho is one of the states that is not certified to enforce EPA lead rules and it also has one of the nation's lowest rates of infant/childhood blood lead level testing as doctors don't seem believe lead is an issue
pottery lady	When I went to the distributors for training the level of safety was not a concern because they stated these glazes were not a high enough level to cause concern. It upsets me to think that anyone would ever think I as an owner would put children in
kaleigh	And thank you! This is a great service to the community!
Dr._Slivka	concerned: At low lead levels a child may be asymptomatic. A child may complain of a stomach ache, sleep a little more, or be little more active. Parents may complain they are not eating as much as usual. So all these complaints are very common in an
bbadenuff	Thanks to WFSB for doing what our State health department would not do. How sad is it that our State Health department was
lindsay	once there is high lead levels found in my child's blood, how does the lead come out? Does a Dr. prescribe a medicine? please
Ronald_Kraatz	pottery lady - the lead dust can be cleaned using wet methods - any good cleaner and water. Several passes of clean water
Dr._Slivka	ghanes: We have found in the state of Connecticut that physicians don't feel there is any problem with lead poisoning because children were not being tested. When there is more testing, there is more identifiable cases of lead exposure. The data is very
gina	if we were exposed to lead during pregnancy would the baby be affected?
Dr._Slivka	lindsay: The most important way to decrease the child's lead level is to get the child away from the exposure. That is why it is
salli	i live in an old building, very old. if there were any lead, would it just be the paint that would have it. some of the walls are brick,
wfsb	Thank you for all your questions! This forum will wrap up in about 15 minutes. Thank you for watching Eyewitness News and
Dr._Slivka	gina; if a pregnant woman has a high lead level, the baby can be affected.
concerned	Would you advise a blood test for an adult who grew up in a centuries old house and who has been ill for years with various
jasper	If a lead glaze was used, what is the risk if the item is not used near food?
Ronald_Kraatz	salli - The paint is the primary problem. Lead in brick or concrete would not be as readily available to create dust.
Patunia	Can lead exposure stunt a child's growth
Ronald_Kraatz	jasper - As a decorative item, there would not be much concern. Hands could be washed after handling it.
Ronald_Kraatz	jasper - As a decorative item, there would not be much concern. Hands could be washed after handling it.
kaleigh	One last question, what are the treatment options if it is determined that your lead levels are high?
Ronald_Kraatz	Patunia - The primary impact is on the development of the young child's nervous system. So the concerns are with learning
pottery lady	I am told by the distributor that once the glaze is fired it does not contain lead any longer Do you know this to be true? How can
Ronald_Kraatz	Kaleigh - It depends upon the level of lead in the blood. At lower levels, removing further exposure, increasing iron and
Ronald_Kraatz	pottery lady - The lead is not removed by firing. I recently saw a glazed mug tested at very high lead levels.
pottery	my daughter's lead level blood work last summer came back a 6 i was told not to worry and was told it will eventually go down if
wfsb	Mr. Kraatz, many are asking whether they can test for lead on their own. Can home-testing kits be purchased, and are they
Ronald_Kraatz	pottery - A child with no continuing exposure should have a gradual decrease in blood lead levels. If the exposure was over a

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Ronald_Kraatz	pottery - A child with no continuing exposure should have a gradual decrease in blood lead levels. If the exposure was over a
Ronald_Kraatz	The home testing kits for lead are not reliable. The federal government has studied them and reached this conclusion.
maxhal	should a mask be worn when doing pottery
wfsb	We will wrap up this live Web chat in about 5 minutes, and will answer as many of the remaining questions as we can. Thanks
Patunia	who can we contact to test items in our home?
Ronald_Kraatz	A HEPA face mask would be effective in removing lead dust. Better to not have lead in the materials. Hands and clothes can
Ronald_Kraatz	Patunia - No one routinely tests items from the home. A laboratory certified for lead could do it at your cost. The yellow pages
artcert	Is the problem only for painted pottery or is acrylic paint on wood, plastic or ceramics also a problem?
Ronald_Kraatz	artcert - I have not heard of acrylic paint to be a problem. However, some plastics have lead as well as some ceramics. Wood
library1	If a child has been to a make your own pottery place do they need to be tested?
Ronald_Kraatz	library1 - There is not enough information available about such experiences to give a good answer. If the child is showing
wfsb	And our last question of the evening,
shell	what health risks do I face if I drank out of a glass with lead paint on it?
Ronald_Kraatz	shell - There is possible ingestion of the lead. If the use was frequent and if more acidic items were used, the exposure would
wfsb	Thank you everyone for joining Eyewitness News and our esteemed experts for this live discussion forum. Be sure to log on to