



## LEAD IN THE WORKPLACE

# Occupational Lead Exposure

If you work in a job that involves lead, you are at risk for lead poisoning. Your family might be at risk if you bring lead home through your work shoes and clothes. Lead is a toxic metal that can be brought home on your clothes, shoes, skin, hair, and hands.

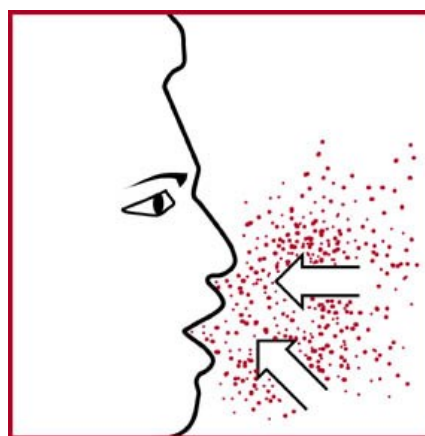


## Jobs with Lead Exposure

- Welding of old, painted metal
- Paint manufacturing
- Spray finishing
- Battery manufacturing
- Radiator repair
- Lead soldering
- Indoor firing ranges
- Ceramic glaze mixing
- Stained glass manufacture or repair
- Soldering
- Plumbing

## How can lead enter my body?

- Breathing or swallowing lead fumes or dust
- If you don't wash your hands and face before eating or drinking, you can easily swallow lead dust.



## Signs of Lead Poisoning

### Early signs

- Fatigue
- Uneasy stomach
- Irritability
- Poor appetite
- Headache
- Sleeplessness

### Later signs

- Aches or pains in stomach
- Constipation
- Nausea
- Weight loss
- Memory problems

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT  
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KANSAS

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### How can I reduce my exposure to lead at work?

- Use ventilation systems while working.
- Use the correct respirator. Ensure it is cleaned regularly and in good working condition.
- Keep your work area clean, and do not dry sweep or shake lead dust off clothes or surfaces.
- Wash your hands and face before eating or drinking.
- Store work clothes in a separate locker from street clothes.
- Shower, wash your hair, and change into clean clothes and shoes before leaving work.
- Do not take work clothing and shoes home. If you must, put work clothes and shoes in a plastic bag and seal or tie it shut.



### What can I do to protect my family from lead exposure?

- The best practice is to leave work clothes and shoes at work, but if you take them home:
  - Keep your work clothes and shoes away from areas where your children play.
  - Wash your work clothes separately from your family's clothes.
- Regularly wash your children's hands with soap and water.
- Regularly wash your children's toys with soap and water.
- Vacuum carpeted areas before wet mopping floors.
- Cover carpeted areas with throw rugs.
- Have your family tested for lead.



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