Where is lead found?
WHERE IS LEAD LIKELY TO BE ON MY PROPERTY?

Where is Lead likely to be on my Property?
How does Lead enter the body?

3 Main Pathways

- **Ingestion**
  - Eating lead or lead contaminated materials. Anything from a bit of soil falling into your beverage, to consuming unwashed vegetables, to putting a toy manufactured with lead into your mouth.

- **Inhalation**
  - Breathing in lead contaminated particulate matter: dust, paint chips, pesticide drift, exhaust from a vehicle burning leaded fuel.

- **Dermal**
  - Absorption of lead through the skin. Occurs when dust or soil containing lead contamination remains in contact with the skin for a long period of time.
How can I avoid lead in my environment?

- After working outside, be sure to remove any soiled or dusty clothing and shoes as soon as you enter your residence, to avoid spreading contamination throughout your home.
- Dust and wet-mop frequently to reduce dust accumulation in your home.
- If your residence hasn’t been built or renovated in the past 20 years, consider having the paint tested for lead.
  - The United States Environmental Protection Agency has guidance on various resources related to lead safety.
- If you garden, raised beds can help you avoid lead contamination risk (provided they are filled with uncontaminated soil).
  - If you must grow food in-ground, fruit and nut trees are a relatively safe option, because Pb contamination is typically lowest in the fruit portion of a plant.
  - Avoid growing root/tuber crops (carrots, potatoes) or low-growing leafy greens (lettuce, kale) because they have relatively large contamination risk.
- Wash all vegetables, and peel root vegetables before consumption.
# How do I know if I’ve been exposed to Lead?

## Signs/Symptoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Acute exposure</th>
<th>Chronic exposure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Encephalopathy (brain dysfunction)</td>
<td>Anemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>Encephalopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vomiting</td>
<td>Foot drop/wrist drop (palsy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nephropathy (kidney disease)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Symptoms of Lead poisoning**

- **Central nervous system**
  - Insomnia
  - Loss of appetite
  - Decreased libido
  - Depression
  - Irritability
  - Cognitive deficits
  - Memory loss
  - Headache
  - Personality changes
  - Delirium
  - Coma

- **Abdomen**
  - Pain
  - Nausea
  - Diarrhea or constipation

- **Extremities**
  - Wrist and foot drop
  - Pain
  - Tingling

- **General**
  - Malaise
  - Fatigue
  - Weight loss

- **Skin**
  - Pallor and/or lividity

- **Neuromuscular**
  - Tremor
  - Pain
  - Delayed reaction times
  - Loss of coordination
  - Convulsions
  - Weakness
  - Seizures

- **Reproductive**
  - Sperm dysfunction (males)
  - Pregnancy complications (females)

- **Mouth**
  - Unusual taste
  - Slurred speech
  - Blue line along the gum

- **Kidney failure**

- **Vision**
  - Blindness of parts of visual field
  - Hallucinations

- **Hearing loss**

Who is at Greatest Risk?

- Children are by far the group at greatest risk for exposure to lead in the home.
  - This is partly due to differences in physiology (children breathe faster and have more permeable guts, as well as a lower body mass than adults).
  - It is also partly due to differences in behavior (children are more likely to explore the environment with their hands and mouths, and are more likely to play in dusty or soil environments than adults).
Who is at Greatest Risk?

- Industrial workers, especially those working in mining, ore processing, metallurgy, plumbing, auto mechanics, glass manufacture, welding, and waste handling/processing.
- Hunters who consume a large proportion of game meat killed or wounded with lead ammunition.
- People living in aging housing stock: if you think there’s a possibility that the building you live in existed before 1978, get it tested!