

COUNTY OF KANE

Public Information Office



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National Lead Poisoning Week Reminds Homeowners to Consider Sources of Lead

Most of us are not thinking about lead as we go about our day. Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 22-28, 2023, reminds us to consider that lead can be in many places, primarily the walls and windowsills of your home, the water you drink, the soil of your vegetable garden, and even children's toys and other consumer products. No level of lead in the body is considered safe, especially for the very young. The bodies and brains of babies and young children are growing at a rapid pace and exposure to any amount of lead can cause growth issues, learning disabilities, hearing loss, and speech and memory deficits.

Many homes in Kane County were built over fifty years ago when lead in plumbing and paint was prevalent. Lead does not go away, rather it sits in the top two inches of the soil, left over from the lead gasoline era and chipping paint from before lead-based paint was banned in 1978. Children living in certain zip codes are at increased risk for lead exposure due mostly to the housing stock in the area, among other risk factors. This year, these zip codes include Aurora (60505, 60506, 60507), Burlington (60109), Elgin (60120, 60121) and Kaneville (60144). Parents of young children living in these zip codes should speak with their physicians about lead screening to determine blood lead levels.

The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) Lead Poisoning Prevention Program assists families with children who test positive for high blood lead levels by conducting environmental testing to detect sources of lead exposure in their environment and providing education on ways to prevent further exposure. Simple ways to reduce lead exposure include frequent handwashing, eating nutritious meals, wet-mopping floors, windows and windowsills, and keeping [lead-contaminated toys](#) away from children. When planning home renovations, homes with lead-based paints should hire [trained contractors](#).

For more information about the KCHD Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and resources for families, homeowners, tenants and contractors, visit: <https://kanehealth.com/Pages/Lead.aspx>

