Lead Awareness

Remember:
1. Children are most at risk.
2. No level of lead is safe.
3. Lead impacts learning and behavior.

84% of children with a high blood lead level had hazardous lead paint in their home.*

*MDH 2016 Blood Surveillance Report

Minnesota lead sources:
- Paint/paint dust
- Spices and medication, especially from outside the U.S.
- Parent occupation or hobbies (remodeling, construction, smelting, firearm use, pottery)
- Products (jewelry, beauty products, toys, ceramics, antiques)
- Water

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Lead in drinking water is not a common source of elevated blood lead levels in Minnesota.

If you have a private well, it is recommended you test your tap water for lead.

Children should be screened for blood lead levels at ages 1 and 2 years old.

What you can do:
- Do not disturb paint if your house was built before 1978.
- Let water run for 30 seconds if you have not used the tap in more than six hours. Use cold water for cooking and drinking.
- Clean surfaces regularly with soapy water and a rag.
- If your work or hobbies involve lead, do not wear work clothes or shoes into the home and wash clothes separately.
- Call Minnesota Department of Health if you are concerned about lead in paint, products, or drinking water. Phone: 651-201-4620
- Ask your health care provider about blood lead screening guidelines for your child.

Phone: 651-201-4620