

Lead Free Kids

The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health is the coordinating department for **Lead Free Kids**, a lead poisoning prevention program that covers Cerro Gordo, Hancock and Worth counties.

The program is funded by the Cerro Gordo, Hancock and Worth Empowerment Area.

Funding provides:

- Free capillary (finger prick) blood testing for children under age 6 who live in Cerro Gordo, Hancock or Worth County.
- Free (non-destructive) lead paint testing for anyone who lives in a home built before 1978, lives in Cerro Gordo, Hancock or Worth County and has a child that spends at least 10 hours per week at the home — as funding permits.

Call to schedule an appointment for your child:

Cerro Gordo County:

(641) 421-9324 or Toll Free:
1-888-264-2581

Hancock County:

(800) 775-6180

Worth County:

(800) 765-1388

Lead poisoning can affect any child,
regardless of race, economic status
or location of home.

*Every Child
Deserves to Be
Lead-Free*



Lead-Free Kids is funded by the
Cerro Gordo, Hancock and Worth
Empowerment Area



Learn More About Lead-Free Kids

www.empowermentforthekids.org

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RUNS BETTER



UNLEADED!

*Lead Poisoning ~
It's Preventable!*

Lead Poisoning is the #1
Environmental Health Hazard to
Children

All Children Should Be
Tested Before Age 6

So a little paint is chipping and peeling around the windows. Who cares? You should!

- Before we knew how harmful it could be, lead was used in many products, including paint.
- Lead does not break down naturally and can remain a problem until it is removed.
- You may have lead in the dust, paint, or soil in and around your home, or in your drinking water or food.
- **Lead poisoning can have long term effects on children:** learning disabilities, decreased growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing, and even brain damage. If caught early, these effects can be limited by reducing exposure to lead or by medical treatment.



Older houses are more likely to contain lead paint. Percent of housing building before 1950:

Cerro Gordo County	= 44.1 %
Hancock County	= 47.5 %
Worth County	= 57.8 %
Iowa Average	= 39.3 %
National Average	= 22.3 %

Source: U.S. Census Data 2000

Is Lead Lurking Inside Your Home?

If you live in a home built before 1978, it may contain lead paint.

Have you ever remodeled a room, knocked out a wall or replaced your windows? Those are just a few examples of how remodeling projects in your home can stir up lead paint in your living space.

However, lead paint can be easily disturbed in other ways:

- Opening a window that was once painted with lead-based paint provides a source for childhood lead poisoning. The friction from opening the window causes lead dust to settle on furniture, carpet, toys, clothing and other items in your home. Children breathe this into their lungs.
- Every time your children touch the dust and put their hands or toys into their mouth, they are ingesting lead.
- Inhaling lead dust is just as harmful as eating lead paint chips. Both types of exposure can cause permanent damage to children.



New Iowa Law Requires Children be Tested for Lead Poisoning

Beginning in the fall of 2008, all students under age 6 will be required to have at least one blood test to check for lead poisoning. The new Iowa law applies to children enrolling in public and private schools and those who are home schooled.

The only way to know if a child is lead poisoned is to have a blood test (finger prick).

Lead-Free Kids provides **FREE** testing for any child under age 6 who lives in Cerro Gordo, Hancock or Worth counties.

Lead-Free Kids officials prefer a more aggressive testing regimen than what the state law requires, recommending children be tested according to the Iowa Department of Public Health high risk protocol: testing at age 12 months, 18 months, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years.

However, only one test will be required in the new state law.

Ask your physician during a childhood checkup or contact your county health department for lead testing.

Test your home, especially if you are going to remodel: Unless your home was built after 1978, you should assume it has lead paint. A Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health lead specialist can test your home with an X-Ray Fluorescence Machine (XRF). You will know instantly if and where lead-based paint exists in your home. The XRF is non-destructive and reliable. This can be used in Cerro Gordo, Hancock or Worth County homes for FREE.

Get tested if you are pregnant: Ask your physician for a lead test. Even low levels can affect your baby, increasing the risk of premature birth, low birth weight and miscarriage.