



NEWSLETTER
December 2009

This newsletter is intended to provide a recap of some of the healthy homes and lead-based paint information that we have shared in the IHHN meetings or that has come to us through various Listservs. We want to especially thank the [Alliance for Healthy Homes](#) and the [National Center for Healthy Homes](#) for keeping us all in the know with their newsletters and timely posts to LeadNet and HealthyHomesNet.

**MAY EVERYONE ENJOY A DECENT, SAFE
AND SANITARY HOLIDAY...AND A
HEALTHY HOME!!!**



OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE HUD'S STRATEGIC PLAN AND HEALTHY HOMES

HUD is in the process of revising its Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2010 to 2015. The Strategic Plan will shape HUD's programs, budget requests, and resource allocation decisions for the next five years.

HUD recently set up a website in coordination with the National Academy of Public Administration to capture this feedback. Your feedback is optional, but critical to this process, especially if we want our leaders to understand the impact of housing on public health.

Ideas related to Healthy Homes can be posted under two goals. The first is: "**Build inclusive and sustainable communities of opportunity**," especially to answer the question: "How can we improve the health and economic self-sufficiency of all community residents while reducing the impact of communities on the environment?"

You may also be interested in posting under "**Utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life**." That goal is related to the quality of life for residents of HUD-assisted housing.

To that end, please visit the site, submit your ideas, and vote! - <http://hudideasinaction.uservice.com/>

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY HOMES NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER 2009

http://afhh.org/res/alerts/archives/alert_nov09.pdf



COUNTING IS IMPORTANT

2010 is the beginning of the 23rd United States census, and as our forefathers understood, this act of counting has powerful political and scientific importance. What we count, we can manage - whether it's wildlife, or immigrants, or the measurable level of toxic substances in each and every one of us.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/editorial/counting-whether-its-wildlife-immigrants-or-toxic-substances-in-our-bodies-is-important>

TRAINING--INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN MULTIFAMILY HOUSING

<http://www.healthyhometraining.org/IPM/training.htm>

STUDY LINKS ASTHMA, POLLUTANT EXPOSURE

Indoor and outdoor pollutants work together to cause more damage to young lungs than either pollutant could achieve on its own, according to new research from the University of Cincinnati.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20091124/NEWS01/911240350/Study%20links%20asthma%20%20pollutant%20exposure%20%20>



INHALING HUMAN PATHOGENS WITH CIGARETTE SMOKE

Cigarettes contain hundreds of different strains of bacteria, including many human pathogens that may play a role in lung diseases and respiratory infections, new research shows.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/inhaling-human-pathogens-with-cigarette-smoke>

THE DIRT ON DUST

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120252957>

OWNERS SUE CONTRACTOR OVER 'SICK' HOUSES

Homeowners contend that mold growing in houses built by Quadrant Corp -- flowering, they claim, because rushed construction schedules didn't leave time to dry wet building materials -- is circulated through poorly designed and badly built heating systems, poisoning occupants.

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/412486_quadrant19.html

WOMEN USE 515 CHEMICALS

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/beauty/article-1229275/Revealed--515-chemicals-women-bodies-day.html>

PHTHALATE MAY SHORTEN PREGNANCY

Pregnant women who are exposed to higher levels of an increasingly controversial chemical in certain plastics may deliver their babies slightly earlier than women with less exposure, results of a study hint. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE5AT52220091130>

CALL TO BAN BPA BABY BOTTLE, 'COMPELLING' BREAST CANCER LINK

<http://www.news.com.au/breaking-news/call-to-ban-bpa-baby-bottle-after-compelling-breast-cancer-link/story-e6frfku0-1225805691216>

EXPOSURE TO FLAME RETARDANTS

Researchers have tracked the most significant sources of human exposure to one type of flame retardant chemicals - polybrominated dipheylethers (PBDEs). Topping the list were sleeping pillows and vehicle seat cushions whose bromine levels were significantly associated with PBDE levels measured in the participant's blood. <http://newsletters.environmentalhealthnews.org/t/32341/1721/41560/0/>

BIRTH DEFECT LINK TO FLY SPRAYS

Using insect repellents in early pregnancy could put unborn boys at risk of a birth defect, research suggests. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5iQGeDUYO34vUfdYaEkeCdGnqpDxw>

TOXICANTS IN PLASTIC 'FEMINIZE BOYS'

Chemicals in plastics alter the brains of baby boys making them "more feminine", say US researchers. Males exposed to more phthalates in the womb went on to be less likely to play with boys' toys like cars or to join in rough and tumble games. The research adds to concerns about the safety of phthalates, found in vinyl flooring and PVC shower curtains.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8361863.stm>

CHEMICAL BPA MAY HARM DEVELOPING FETUS

A common chemical used in the plastic lining of frozen-food dinners and many other products is endangering the development of fetuses in pregnant women, a new study suggests.

<http://www.canada.com/health/Chemical%20harm%20developing%20fetus%20Study/2322801/story.html>

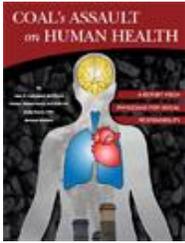
NEW REPORT: EARLIEST EXPOSURES TO TOXIC CHEMICALS

New tests by the Washington Toxics Coalition reveal that children spend their first nine months in an environment that exposes them to known toxic chemicals. WTC tested nine pregnant women, from Washington, Oregon, and California, for chemicals including bisphenol A, phthalates, mercury, and "Teflon chemicals." The first-of-its kind study tested blood and urine from pregnant women during their second trimester of pregnancy and found their bodies contaminated with chemicals found in a wide variety of consumer products. <http://www.watoxics.org/publications/earliest-exposures>

EXPOSURES TO METALS AND DIESEL EMISSIONS LINKED TO RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS

To read the press release about the study: <http://www.cceh.org/pressreleases/press112309.html>

To read the paper: <http://www.cceh.org/pdf-papers/Patel2009.pdf>



COAL POLLUTION DAMAGES HUMAN HEALTH AT EVERY STAGE OF COAL LIFE CYCLE

Physicians for Social Responsibility today released a groundbreaking medical report, "Coal's Assault on Human Health," which takes a new look at the impacts of coal on the human body. <http://www.psr.org/coalreport>

ASBESTOS REMOVAL VIOLATIONS MAY COST CONTRACTOR

A Lockport, N.Y., contractor faces \$484,000 in Fed-OSHA fines for alleged violations that occurred during asbestos removal at a warehouse in downtown Buffalo. The agency found workers who had not been trained in asbestos hazards and protection procedures, lacked proper respirators and clothing, and who had not been informed of the presence of asbestos at the site.

[Go to the Full Story...](#)

INDIANA AG SUES LANDLORDS OVER LEAD LEVELS

<http://www.aboutlawsuits.com/lead-paint-lawsuit-filed-by-indiana-ag-7015/>

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONINGS INCREASE IN IOWA

Of the childhood lead poisonings investigated by Iowa Department of Public Health -certified inspectors, 75 percent (12 out of 16) were exposed to lead from home remodeling projects. The actual number of lead poisoning cases is most likely much higher, as IDPH inspectors only service 30 percent of Iowa counties. The remaining 70 percent of Iowa counties are serviced by local childhood lead poisoning prevention programs.

<http://www.wyprnewsroom.org/2009/11/16/growing-up-baltimore-lead/>

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphNews/Reader.aspx?id=954D383B-3B1F-472A-804A-27D74C9B0F53>

LEAD HAZARD AND OSHA

By Jake Ewer

While it's been removed or banned from most products, lead can still be found in multiple places. Lead is an ingredient in lead-based paints, lead solder, electrical fittings and conduits, tank linings, plumbing fixtures, and other metal alloys. Significant lead exposures can occur when paint is removed from surfaces previously coated with lead-based paint.



One of the more common exposures to lead-based paint occurs when renovating or remodeling homes built before 1978. Activities that increase the presence of lead-containing dusts or fumes and increase exposure include the following: demolition of structures; flame-torch cutting; welding; use of heat guns, sanders, scrapers, or grinders and abrasive blasting of steel structures. OSHA's Construction and General Industry lead standards set a permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 50 µg/m³, and an action level (AL) of 30 µg/m³, and

require that air monitoring be conducted to determine employee exposures. Engineering, work practice, and administrative controls must be used to reduce exposures below the PEL. These controls may include

mechanical ventilation, removal methods that do not generate dust or fumes, and work schedules that limit an individual's exposure to lead.

Employees must be provided with all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) which may include head, eye, hand and foot protection. Respirator use is limited by the standard with preference being placed on engineering and administrative controls to eliminate employee exposures.

Respirator use must comply with the respiratory protection standard at 29 CFR 1910.134. Good housekeeping and personal hygiene practices are also required by the standard. Cleanup must be done using vacuums equipped with a HEPA filter or other methods that minimize the potential for lead to become airborne.

Change areas, showers, eating facilities and hand washing facilities must all be provided to minimize exposure to employees or other individuals. For employees exposed to higher lead levels, inclusion in a medical surveillance program is necessary. This could include biological monitoring, medical examinations and removal from the job or task if elevated blood lead levels are observed. The application of each part of the standard varies based on the results of the exposure determination and whether or not an employee is exposed above the PEL or AL.

OSHA CITES DEVELOPER FOR LEAD PAINT VIOLATIONS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is proposing to levy a total of \$36,750 in fines on Globe Developers Inc. for allegedly failing to protect workers against lead-paint contamination during renovations of the Kirstein Building in downtown Rochester.

OSHA said it had issued 11 separate citations against Globe Developers after inspectors observed the developers' workers scraping lead paint and sweeping up paint chips without protective clothing or protection against inhaling lead dust.

The developer also failed to properly monitor contamination levels, the safety and health agency alleges. The alleged violations continued even after OSHA repeatedly warned Globe Developers of deficiencies, Buffalo-based OSHA area director Arthur Dube said.

<http://www.rbj.net/article.asp?aID=181838>

FEDS SLAP OHIO BRIDGE PAINTER FOR ALLEGED LEAD EXPOSURES

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/11/16/bridge-tower-painter-fined-for-exposing-workers-to-lead.aspx>

PARENTS BEWARE

Are toys safer now? Sure, say federal regulators and Mattel, the world's biggest toy maker. But a study from a consumer watchdog group and my recent trip to the Toy District cast serious doubts.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-lazarus25-2009nov25,0,4087341.column>



NGO ALERT ON TOYS WITH TOXICS

As local and imported toys begin to swamp toy stores, a local waste and pollution watchdog reiterated the call for concerned government agencies to make sure that children are safe from toxins in toys by banning those tainted with harmful substances.

<http://businessmirror.com.ph/home/nation/18983-ngo-alert-up-on-toys-with-toxic-ingredients.html>

LEAD, DANGEROUS CHEMICALS FOUND IN TOYS DESPITE LAW

Despite a new law that bans six chemicals from children's products and lowers the lead limit for them, a public interest group has found a number of toys at major retailers that contain the chemicals and illegal amounts of lead.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/24/AR2009112401601.html>

HEALTH GROUP FINDS HIGH LEAD LEVELS IN TOYS

Children's toys carrying the Barbie and Disney logos have turned up with high levels of lead in them, according to a California-based advocacy group — a finding that may give consumers pause as they shop for the holiday season.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5icnf0a0VCqPZy915FbmDa1NMF0pwD9C1HPT03>

EXCELLIGENCE LEARNING CORP. TO PAY \$25,000 CIVIL PENALTY DUE TO VIOLATION OF LEAD PAINT BAN IN CHILDRENS' PRODUCTS

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/prhtml10/10055.html>

LEAD IN EXPENSIVE BALSAMIC VINEGARS

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/lead-in-vinegar>

STUDY LINKS ADHD TO SMOKING, LEAD

Exposure to both tobacco smoke before birth and lead during childhood increases a child's risk of developing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder more than eight-fold, according to new research from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Cincinnati Enquirer, Ohio.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20091122/NEWS01/911230317/Study%20links%20ADHD%20to%20smoking%20%20lead>



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To read the paper: <http://www.ccceh.org/pdf-papers/Patel2009.pdf> .

AUDIO REPORT: LEAD-POISONED CHILD

"Growing Up Baltimore," is made possible, in part, Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence. 6 min audio report featuring mother of lead

poisoned child and Ruth Ann Norton who was featured at the Idaho Healthy Homes conference in September. [Download](#)

CLEAN-UP OF LEAD IN HOUSEHOLD CARPET AND FLOOR DUST

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8053420>

CHRISTMAS TREE LEAD

<http://tinyurl.com/7t5fyn>

HEAVY METALS EXPOSURE RAISES RISK OF PENIS DEFECTS

<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/wellbeing/heavy-metals-raise-risk-of-penis-defects-20091202-k6es.html>

LEAD EXPOSURE IN CHILDHOOD LEADS TO PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE AND LIFELONG PROBLEMS

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/RSNAMeeting/17279>

HIGHER BLOOD LEAD BOOSTS DEPRESSION, PANIC RISK

<www.reutershealth.com/archive/2009/12/08/eline/links/20091208elin008.html>

GUN CLUB NEIGHBORS CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD

A Williston, VT couple said a gun club near their home has left a brook that runs through their property tainted with lead.

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20091118/NEWS02/911180316/1007/Williston-gun-club-neighbors-concerned-about-lead>

LEAD EXPOSURE AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR INDOOR FIRING RANGES

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ranges/pdfs/76-130.pdf>



PREVENTING OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES TO LEAD AND NOISE AT INDOOR FIRING RANGES

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2009-136/default.html>

FIRE AWAY! TWO NEW NIOSH RESOURCES ON FIRING RANGES AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

NIOSH Topic Page: Campos de Tiro (Firing Ranges)

<http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/topics/tiro.html>

NIOSH Alert: Prevención de la exposición ocupacional al plomo y al ruido en campos de tiro cubiertos
(Preventing Occupational Exposures to Lead and Noise at Indoor Firing Ranges)
http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/docs/2009-136_sp/

OTHER LINKS:

HUD's Office of Health Homes and Lead Hazard Control -- <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>

EPA – www.epa.gov/lead

OSHA – www.osha.gov

National Center for Healthy Housing -- <http://www.nchh.org/Home.aspx>

Alliance for Healthy Homes -- www.afhh.org

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Product Recalls -- <http://cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prerel.html>

LeadNet – international listserv on lead and lead poisoning; to subscribe: Leadnet-on@mail-list.com

To search LeadNet Archives -- <http://archive.mail-list.com/leadnet>

User Name = leadnet

Password = lswp (The User Name and Password are case-sensitive.)

For parents of a lead-poisoned child: www.alphalead.org

Tamara Rubin's (Portland, OR) website: <http://www.mychildrenhaveleadpoisoning.com>