

If You Work Around Lead, Don't Take It Home!

Did you know that if you work with lead you could be bringing this toxic metal home on your clothes, shoes, skin, hair and hands? Take-home lead can cause lead poisoning in children and other family members. Stop lead from getting into your home and vehicle by always washing, showering, and changing out of your work clothes and work shoes before leaving work. OSHA has regulations to protect workers from lead exposure in both general industry (1910.1025) and construction (1926.62).

Common jobs with lead exposure

- Painting
- Building renovation
- Radiator repair
- Bridge work
- Shooting range work
- Demolition
- Battery manufacturing
- Metal production
- Metal scrap cutting and recycling
- Ceramic work
- Soldering
- Plumbing

Lead is dangerous to children and adults:

- Lead harms the brain, nervous system, blood, and kidneys.
- Low levels of lead in the blood may cause learning and behavioral problems in children under age 6.
- Children and pregnant family members living in your house should be tested for lead. Contact your doctor, health clinic, or local health department.



For more information:



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- Adults with levels of lead in their blood above 30 µg/dL should be seen by a doctor.
- Some harmful effects of lead are permanent.

Requirements employers must follow to stop take-home lead exposure:

- Test workplace air for lead and blood lead levels in workers.
- Tell you if your work involves lead and train you on lead safety.
- Control lead dust and fumes in the workplace.
- Provide protective work clothing and equipment for workers.
- Give workers a place to wash hands and take a shower.
- Provide workers a place to change into clean clothes. Keep work clothes away from street clothes.



What you can do to prevent take-home lead exposure:

- Wash your hands often and shower at the end of the work shift.
- Change out of your work clothes and shoes before going home.
- Do not take contaminated work clothing or shoes exposed to lead home. If you must, put them in a plastic bag and wash your work clothes separately.
- Tell your doctor that you work with lead.



Remember, keep your family safe and don't bring home lead.

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