

WATCH OUT FOR LEAD PAINT POISONING

TO: TENANTS OF LOW-RENT PUBLIC HOUSING CONSTRUCTED PRIOR TO 1978

This housing was constructed before 1978. There is a possibility that it may contain lead-based paint. Please read the following information concerning lead paint poisoning:

Children get lead poisoning when they eat bits of paint that contain lead. If a child eats enough lead paint, his brain will be damaged. He may become mentally retarded or even die.

Older houses and apartments often have layers of lead paint on the walls, ceilings, and woodwork. When the paint chips off or when the plaster breaks, there is real danger for babies and young children. Outdoors, lead paints and primers may have been used in many places, such as on walls, fences, porches, and fire escapes.

If you have seen your child putting pieces of paint or plaster in his or her mouth, you should take him or her to the doctor, clinic, or hospital as soon as you can. In the beginning stages of lead poisoning, a child may not seem really sick. Do not wait for signs of poisoning.

Of course, a child might eat paint chips or chew on a painted railing or windowsill while parents aren't around. Has your child been especially cranky? Is he eating very little? Does he throw up or have stomachaches often? These could be signs of lead poisoning. Take him to a doctor's office or clinic.

Be sure to tell the rest of your family and people who baby-sit for you about the danger of lead poisoning.

Look at your walls and ceilings and woodwork. Are there places where the paint is peeling? If so, get a broom or stiff brush and remove all the pieces of paint from walls, woodwork and ceilings. Sweep up all the pieces of paint and plaster. Put them in a paper bag or wrap them in newspaper and put the package in the trashcan. Always keep the floor clear of loose bits of paint and plaster. Children will pick loose paint of the walls, so be extra careful about keeping the lower parts of the walls free of loose paint. Report peeling paint to the management office immediately.

If you want to know more about how to keep your child safe from lead poisoning, talk to your doctor, public health nurse, or social worker at the clinic or health department.

Date

Signature

Project

Apartment