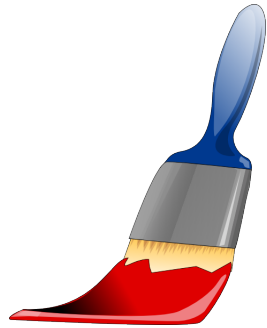


Over 40 million children worldwide are threatened by Lead poisoning and over 97% of them are living in developing countries.

**Eliminate Leaded Paints for the sake of your Children's Health!**



*Ask for  
Lead free Paints*



**LEAD** is recognized as a prime toxic and Lead poisoning is the most common among all the heavy metal pollutions.

One of the major sources of exposure to Lead is **Lead-based paints**.

Lead is added to paints (decorative and industrial paints) to speed up drying, increase durability, retain a fresh appearance, and resist moisture that causes corrosion.

#### Lead categories in paints:

**White Lead** (*Lead Carbonate*) has high affinity for vehicle paints

**Red Lead** (*a Lead Oxide with orange in colour*) and **Blue Lead** (*Lead Sulphate with Lead Oxide, Zinc Oxide, and Carbon*) are used industrially where corrosion protection and colour on metal is needed.

**Lead chromates** are used to produce yellow, orange, red, and green paints.

**Litharge** is a yellow pigment lead often used in glass or earthenware.

#### Permitted level:

**Normal Blood Lead Level (BLL) is ZERO.** Children are highly sensitive to Lead. Children expose to more than 10µg/dl will have health problems. Even low level and long term exposure can cause health hazards.

What You Need to Know about  
**Lead Poisoning?**



For more information,



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## Sri Lankan scenario...

According to the Sri Lanka Standards Institution regulations, permissible level of Lead in paints:

*Emulsion paints: Lead free*  
*Enamel paints: 600 ppm*

According to a new scientific research carried out by Toxics Link, CEJ and other environmental organizations in 10 countries, Paints produced in Sri Lanka still have a very high Lead content in both enamel and emulsion paints.

*Some enamel paint samples tested contain as high as 137,325 ppm of Lead.*

## Who are more susceptible?

- In most cases, Lead-based paint coatings in good condition are not hazardous. Peeling, chipping or cracking of old Lead based paint coatings release Lead to the indoor environment.
- Lead-based paints may also be a hazard when found on surfaces (cradles, toys, furniture etc) that children can bite or those that are subject to a lot of wear-and-tear.

- Lead is more dangerous to children and it affects the central nervous system and the poisoning affects are irreversible. It causes permanent brain damage in 70-80% of children even though they receive the best treatment.

## Symptoms:

Lead affects the micro-organisms by retarding the heterotrophic breakdown of organic matter. Most of the Lead is taken up by Red Blood Cells and circulate throughout the body. It concentrates initially in the liver and kidneys, re-distributing to the bones, teeth and brain.

Chronic and acute symptoms can develop in both children and adults.

- Anaemia is the first symptom
- Appetite loss
- Weight loss
- Behaviour and learning problems, such as hyperactivity
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems, Headache
- Lethargy, abdominal pains, paleness and vomiting
- Degeneration of tissues in the central nervous system is more serious
- Circulatory system, reproductive system and gastro-intestinal systems are damaged seriously

