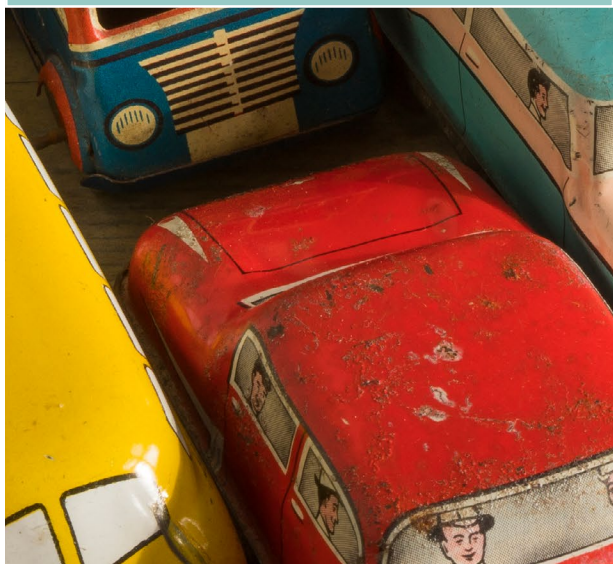




Beware of Lead

Antiques and Collectibles



Antiques and collectibles such as furniture, toys, ceramics, and glassware may contain lead. Take steps to reduce your risk of lead poisoning.

Lead and Health

Lead poisoning is extremely dangerous for adults and children. After lead gets in the body, it can cause lifelong brain damage, permanent injuries, and disabilities. There is no safe level of lead. Many people with lead poisoning don't feel sick. A blood test is the only way to know if you have high levels of lead.



Ceramics and Glassware

Use your antique ceramics and glassware for decoration or save them for special occasions. Using these every day for food or drink increases the risk of lead poisoning:

- Antique ceramic, porcelain, and clay dishes
- Metal dishes and aluminum cookware
- Antique crystal glassware and decanters
- Patterned or brightly colored dishes or glasses
- Handmade pottery
- Damaged or worn ceramics
- Dishes and glasses with raised or worn decorations



Collectibles

Lead paint can be found on antique items. Glass objects were colored or soldered (joined together) with lead. Old books were often colored using red, orange, and yellow lead-based inks and paints that contain toxic lead. Lead was also mixed in with other metals like brass, tin, and pewter.

Wash Hands and Keep Children Away

Lead can get in your body from touching these items and putting hands to your mouth:

- Old painted furniture, toys, and collectibles
- Metal figures, toys, jewelry, keys, and hardware
- Glass lampshades, stained glass, and crystal glassware
- Old leather or cloth-covered books

Restoration

- Assume anything made before 1978 contains lead paint and can create lead dust.
- Scraping or sanding older items can release harmful amounts of lead dust into the air.
- Whenever possible, use a lead-certified contractor to do home repairs.



Do-it-Yourselfers

Get trained in **renovation, repair, and painting (RRP)** to work safely while doing home repairs in homes built before 1978.

- Work outdoors when possible.
- When working indoors, set aside a space just for work. Open windows and doors that face outside. Seal that room off from other parts of the building using plastic sheeting. Seal off any air ducts to prevent the spread of lead dust throughout your home.
- Wear a tight-fitting N95 mask or respirator and gloves.
- Wet wipe and mop the work area regularly to reduce lead dust. Never use compressed air or dry sweeping for cleanup.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before eating, drinking, smoking, or applying cosmetics.

Don't track lead dust from the work area.

- Change out of your work clothes and shoes. Clean them separately from your regular clothes.
- Take a shower as soon as possible after working.

If you collect, use, restore antiques, or do repairs on older homes, talk to your health care provider about a blood lead test.

Learn More
health.ny.gov/leadsources

