



# Older Homes Should Come With a Warning\*



the  
First  
6  
Years

Photo: Maria Kendrick

**\*DANGER:** This home contains lead. May cause irreversible harm to children.

**Homes can be a source of lead.** If your home was built before 1978 it may contain lead paint. Homes built before 1950 contain the highest amount. Lead is most often found on windows, doors, trim, porches, stairwells and exterior siding. Stripping and sanding old painted surfaces can create enough lead dust to seriously harm a child. If you suspect that your home contains lead paint do not disturb it.

Lead soldered pipes, lead service connectors and brass fixtures can release lead into drinking water. Soil around the outside of a home can be high in lead due to weathering of old paint. Some homes in disrepair also contain high levels of lead dust.

**Homes can be tested for lead.**

**Test your home. Test your children. To learn how visit: [www.first6years.org/](http://www.first6years.org/) Or call (613)732-5900**

**Lead is a brain poison.** It hinders the normal development of a child's brain and nervous system causing speech and language delays, impaired fine motor skills, learning disabilities, problems with focusing and paying attention, and aggressive behaviour.

Lead is poisonous even in small amounts. A tiny chip of lead paint swallowed by a child can lead to convulsions and coma. Often, however, children are exposed to lead through contact with dust from lead-painted woodwork found in many older homes.

Infants and toddlers pick up contaminated dust on their hands and swallow it. Children who are lead-poisoned may not appear ill. Often the effects of lead are not noticed until children reach school age.

**A simple blood test can tell you if your child has been recently exposed to lead.**

