# Implement Healthy Food Choices to Decrease **LEAD** Absorption

Lead poisoning is a serious disease, especially for children under six years old. Lead remains in the bloodstream for a few weeks: it is then absorbed into the bones and collects for a lifetime. Lead poisoning causes learning disabilities, behavioral problems, mental retardation, and stunted growth. Lead poisoning can be prevented.

#### Lead Control Basics-

- Have young children's blood tested for lead.
- Have children wash their hands and faces frequently, especially if they have been playing outside or on floor, and before they eat.
- Paint areas of peeling/chipping paint.
- Clean painted hard surface floors, window sills, and baseboards with wet sponge, rag or mop and soap.
- Don't scrape, sand, scrub floors, walls, window sills if they contain lead paint.
- Change work clothes if you are exposed to lead at work, and shower before entering the home; be careful if you are working with lead based items like sinkers, etc.
- Do not wash lead covered work clothes with regular laundry at home.

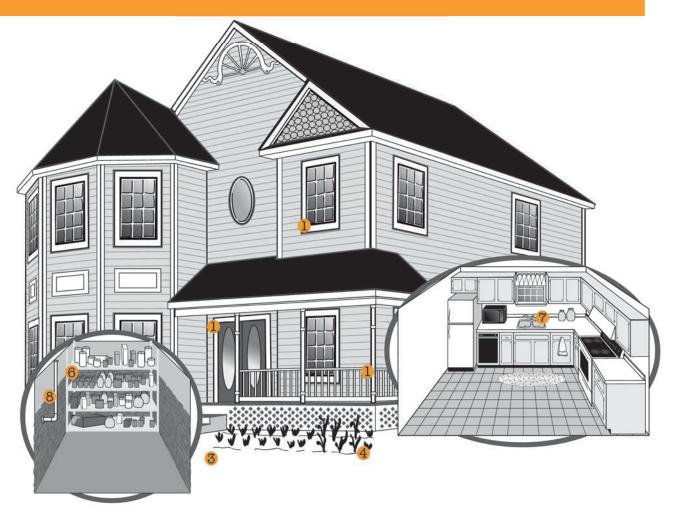
#### Decrease Lead Absorption-

- Run the faucet for 30-60 seconds and use only cold water for drinking, making baby formula, and preparing food.
- Use dishes and food containers that are unpainted glass or plastic, and lead free glazed ceramic or pottery dishes.
- Ensure that the family eats well-balanced meals, especially foods with iron, calcium, and vitamin C.
- Avoid or cut down on serving fatty or fried foods (that allow the body to absorb lead faster).

#### Folk Remedies to Avoid-

- Alcaron
   Alkohl
   Azarcon
   Bala Goli
   Coral
   Ghazard
   Greta
   Kandu
   Kohl
- Luiga
   Maria Luisa
   Pay loo ah
   Rueda
   Surma

# A metal that has been used in residential plumbing and with hobbies and crafts = **LEAD**



Potential Sources of Lead, which might exist more likely in homes built pre1978:

#### Paint

- Lead based paint on windows sills, doors and door frames, porches, fences, interior stairs, railings and banisters, furniture
- Lead dust from lead based paint that has flaked, or lead based paint chips
- Soil around the home that has been contaminated with lead dust or leaded gasoline
- Vegetable garden planted in a lead contaminated area
- Imported non-glossy miniblinds and dust from these

## Food Cooking/Storage

- **6** Cans of imported food containing lead solder in can seal
- Household water for drinking and cooking that is warm or hot

### Plumbing

- 8 Household pipes, faucets, or soldering
- Water well pumps with brass or bronze parts

# Worksite Exposure to Lead

- Work clothes and shoes
- Fumes from burning lead painted wood

- Poor ventilation or poor clean up when removing lead paint or stripping household furniture and/or architectural components
- Car battery
- Car exhaust from leaded gas components
- **(b)** Tobacco smoke/ cigarettes

# Ceramic Glazes/Hobby Supplies

- 6 Lead based glazes for ceramic ware and pottery
- Antique lead soldiers and children's toys
- Lead soldering for stained glass
- Fishing line sinkers, bullets, etc.



Cooperative Extension

Design and Illustration by Margaret Dunlop Designs/2002