



Content

Three Ways to Lower Your Family's Lead Risk this Summer	1
Summer Exposure Risks: A Tool for Well-Child Visits	2
Community-Based Lead Surveillance Pilot in Development	3
Lead Related Recalls	4

Three Ways to Lower Your Family's Lead Risk this Summer

Summer changes how kids spend their days. Children play outside more. Families start home projects. Kids visit older homes where grandparents or babysitters live. Each of these activities can raise a child's risk of lead exposure. Lead is most harmful to children under 6 years of age because their rapidly growing bodies absorb more lead than adults. Their developing brains and nervous system are sensitive to lead, leading to severe risks like lowered IQ, developmental delays and learning difficulties

Small changes at home can protect your child. Three to start with this summer include:

1. **Check the soil and paint around your home.** According to the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](https://www.epa.gov/lead), lead can be found in old paint and in the dirt near older homes. EPA suggests that you walk around your house and look for paint that is chipping or peeling. Look for bare dirt close to the walls where your child plays. If you see chipping paint, do not scrape or sand it yourself. Cover bare dirt with grass, mulch, or a play mat. Move your child's play area away from the side of the house.
2. **Talk to anyone in your home who works with lead.** Some jobs and hobbies bring lead home on clothes and skin, including car painting, battery work, and home renovation on older houses based on [EPA guidance](https://www.epa.gov/lead). Ask anyone doing this work to change clothes and wash their hands and arms before holding your child. Wash work clothes by themselves, not with the family laundry.

3. **Ask your child's doctor about a blood lead test.** A blood test is the only way to know if your child has been exposed to lead. Medicaid regulations mandate that all enrolled children receive a blood lead screening test at 12 and 24 months. Screening guidelines also recommend blood lead screening for children who live in a [targeted zip code](#). If your child missed a recommended test or needs screening, the back-to-school visit is a good time to catch up. Ask your doctor at the next appointment.

For questions about lead in your home or your child's health, contact the Blood Lead Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services at 512-776-7151 or TexasBloodLead@dshs.texas.gov.

Summer Exposure Risks: A Tool for Well-Child Visits

Summer changes how kids are exposed to lead. They spend more time outdoors, which could expose them to exterior lead-based paint or contaminated soil. The well-child visit is the best time to check for lead exposure.

Healthcare providers can use these conversational starters with any child under age 6 years, especially if the minor lives in a home built before 1978.

1. Ask whether the child plays in bare soil near the house. If yes, suggest planting grass, laying mulch, or moving the play area away from the property's foundation.
2. Ask whether the family is painting, sanding, or remodeling their home. If so, recommend using a [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Lead-Safe Certified contractor](#) for any work on homes built before 1978.
3. Ask whether anyone in the household works with lead, paints cars, recycles batteries, or refinishes furniture for their occupation or hobby. If so, advise them to change clothes and wash their hands and arms with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before holding a child.



According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), deteriorated lead-based paint, lead-contaminated household dust, and contaminated soil are the most common sources of lead exposure in U.S. homes. Support your conversation with parents by providing a handout from the [DSHS Blood Lead Surveillance Branch educational materials page](#), which offers printable materials for families.

The child's well check visit is an opportunity to check for blood lead levels. Texas Health Steps (Medicaid) requires a blood lead test at both 12 and 24 months. Make sure to confirm both have been completed for children enrolled in Medicaid. For children not enrolled in Medicaid, make sure to check out the [Blood Lead Screening Guidelines](#) to determine if a child should be tested. If a child has missed a blood test at their well check visit, a back-to-school visit is a great opportunity to check for risk factors such as living in a targeted zip code, having a sibling with a blood lead level above 3.5 micrograms per deciliter, or being exposed by edible or non-edible products that may contain lead.



A Community-Based Lead Surveillance Pilot in Development

The Blood Lead Surveillance Branch is partnering with the Texas Poison Center Network, and the Sealy Center for Environmental Health and Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch, to develop a community-based pilot project to improve identification, confirmation, and follow-up of children ages 0 to 15 years with elevated blood lead levels in areas with low blood lead reporting.

The pilot project brings testing to families at community events in targeted census tracts and ZIP codes. A mobile clinical team performs an on-site capillary finger-stick test and provides results quickly. When a result is above the action threshold, the team draws a venous confirmation sample at the same visit. A clinician reviews results with the family, provides prevention education, and connects the family to follow-up care. Test results flow directly into DSHS surveillance reporting as required by law.

The goal is to reduce loss to follow-up after an elevated capillary screen and to reach children whose families face transportation, scheduling, or awareness barriers to traditional follow-up.

DSHS will share more information about the pilot project in future issues of Lead-Safe Texas newsletter as the program develops. For general questions about blood lead surveillance, contact the DSHS Blood Lead Surveillance Branch at 512-776-7151 or TexasBloodLead@dshs.texas.gov.



Lead Related Recalls

Town Food Service Equipment Co. Aluminum Sauce Pans

Town Food Service Equipment Co. is recalling several sizes of aluminum saucepans due to potential lead contamination. There is a risk lead could leach into food. The recall was issued on December 12, 2025. The recalled items are listed below:

Item Number	Description	Stock Keeping Unit (SKU)
35400	Town brand 1 Quart Aluminum Saucepan	843784003559
35401	Town brand 1-1/2 Quart Aluminum Saucepan	843784003566
35402	Town brand 2 Quart Aluminum Saucepan	843784003573
35403	Town brand 3 Quart Aluminum Saucepan	843784003580

Consumers who have purchased these items are able to return them to the place of purchase for a refund. Consumers can contact Town Food at 718-388-5650 or email recall@townfood.com.

Rheumacare Capsules by Virgo UAP Pharma Pvt. Ltd

Handline Global Limited d/b/a Navafresh has voluntarily recalled lot numbers CAM040 & CAL079-N of the Rheumacare Capsules at the consumer level on December 22, 2025. FDA testing identified higher than permissible levels of lead in the product. Handline Global has issued notification of the recall to distributors and consumers via email. They are encouraging customers to stop using the affected products and to discard them immediately. Refunds are available to consumers who have purchased the product. Questions



regarding this product and the recall can be sent to Mr. Ankit Mota at Handline Global at legal@handline.com.

Shrimp Paste (Klong Kone)

Gusto Group INC has issued a recall for their 1 LBS and 2 LBS Shrimp Paste due to potential lead contamination. These products were directly distributed to two retailers between April 2023 and December 2023: Golden Land (De Moines) and Terri Lee Oriental Groceries. The products were packed and distributed by P. Prateepthong 2000 (Thailand). Customers who have purchased the item can return it to the place of purchase for a full refund. For more information or questions about the recall customers can call 862-264-6774 or email ings@gustofood.com



IKM Cookware

IKM is recalling several cookware items due to lead contamination. There is a risk lead could leach into food. The products were distributed mainly in California grocery stores. Products include: A-cook Aluminum Kadai size 5 (43 pcs)

- Brass Tope (10 pcs)
- IKM 4-quart Pital brass pot (9 pcs)
- IKM Aluminum saucepan wooden handle 9" (56 pcs)

Individuals that have purchased one of these items are encouraged to return them for a full refund. For questions about these products or the recall, consumers can call 1-650-695-9009.



TheKiddoSpace Recalls

TheKiddoSpace had multiple recalls on different children's products. Each product was recalled on February 26, 2026, for varying issues. Products include:

- [TheKiddoSpace Print and Cursive Handwriting Kits](#)
- [TheKiddoSpace Children's Flashcard Talking Toys](#)
- [Children's Christmas Tree Toy Play Sets](#)



These products were sold through Amazon or thekiddospacestore.com. Consumers should immediately stop using these toys and keep them out of children's reach. TheKiddoSpace is offering free replacements for each of the products. For questions about these recalls please email info@thekiddospace.com.



Darice "Timeless Minis"

On June 11, 2026, the Consumer Product Safety Commission warned consumers to stop using the Darice "Timeless Minis" red wagons, watering cans, and chairs because the products exceed the federal lead paint limit. The toys were sold through different retailers through 2016 and have been resold through third party sellers through April 2026. Darice is no longer in business and there is no information regarding refunds for these products.



Space King No Girls Allowed Relic Cups

Warren James has recalled the copper cup included with Space King No Girls Allowed Relic Lunch Boxes because it contains high lead levels. The recall was issued on July 16, 2026, and the product was sold online by Flashgitz from September 2025 through October 2025. Consumers should stop using the cups and contact customersupport@warrenjames.org for a replacement or with questions or concerns.

