

# Lead Prevention Quarterly Newsletter

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Web sites to check out:

Alliance for  
Healthy Homes  
[www.aeclp.org](http://www.aeclp.org)

Children's  
Environmental  
Health Network  
[www.cehn.org](http://www.cehn.org)

For questions about the  
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## Don't let lead be the Grinch that steals Christmas!

Lead poisoning is not limited to just lead paint dust in older homes. With the holidays approaching, many families will come together to share in the holiday spirit. Families will decorate their houses and trees with lights and heirloom ornaments, exchange presents and eat together. Lead could be found in all these settings.

Parents, be careful with Christmas lights around young children. Some Christmas lights could contain lead in the wiring. Do not allow children to put the lights' wiring in their mouths. It is suggested that parents hang the lights themselves, as dust may come out of the wiring onto a child's hand. The child could then put their hand in their mouth.

Lead could also be found in heirloom ornaments. If these ornaments are painted and now have started to chip, lead dust could get on the hands of a young child who is helping to decorate the tree. A very young child might even put the ornament in their mouth.

Some toys on the market may also have lead paint. Parents need to be aware. Look on the package. Some indicate that the toy contains lead paint. If it does, another toy should be purchased. Some imported toys may contain lead, but do not have a warning. If in doubt, don't buy it.

Many families like to bring out special dinnerware and glasses to use during the holidays. Lead crystal should never be used by a small child or a pregnant woman. The lead could leach into the beverage. Also, special decorative dinnerware could contain lead. Make sure all dinnerware is lead-free before purchasing.

With just a little diligence, you can make this a happy and safe Christmas for your children.

## Lead Community Action Bags

The first lead community action bags have been sent out to agents across the state. The bags include a small plastic spray bottle, a sample of waterproof sandpaper, a sample of 6mil plastic, and a lead test kit with instructions. The bags are to be distributed at programs that cover the proper ways to remove lead-based paint from a home. The bag also includes a brochure from EPA entitled "Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home." If you would like to place an order for the bags, please fill out a lead order form and send it in to me.