

Lead in paint and children's health

Protecting children from exposure to harmful chemicals to avoid
irreversible damage

[WHO Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health](#)

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Ostrava, Czech Republic

IPEN/Eco-Accord

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Why lead?

- Strong evidence of harm to children since lead interferes with brain development
- Even very low blood lead levels are harmful
- Lead Poisoning has a significant social and economic cost
- Lead in paint major source of lead exposure
- Childhood lead poisoning is irreversible, but entirely preventable



Infants biting toys coated with lead paint may suffer from -

Abdominal pain
Attention deficit disorder
Learning disabilities
Kidney damage
Loss of appetite
Constipation
Hearing loss
Seizures



SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- par. 9 requires that by 2030, the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution are substantially reduced

- Lead elimination from paints



Data on lead in paint

- Shows that a problem exists in the country
- Engages stakeholders, especially when the hazards to children is explained
- Provides information for dialogue with governmental decision makers and paint manufacturers
- Form the basis for strengthening the legislation



Inspect and Test Before Scraping

Concerned about lead in paint in your country? Take action!

1 	LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEAD PAINT ALLIANCE.	2 	GET PAINT TESTED IN YOUR COUNTRY.
3 	CALL FOR LEAD PAINT LAWS.	4 	MAKE SURE THE LAWS ARE ENFORCED.

For more information, visit www.unep.org/noleadpaint.
Join the conversation on Twitter! [#banleadpaint](https://twitter.com/banleadpaint)

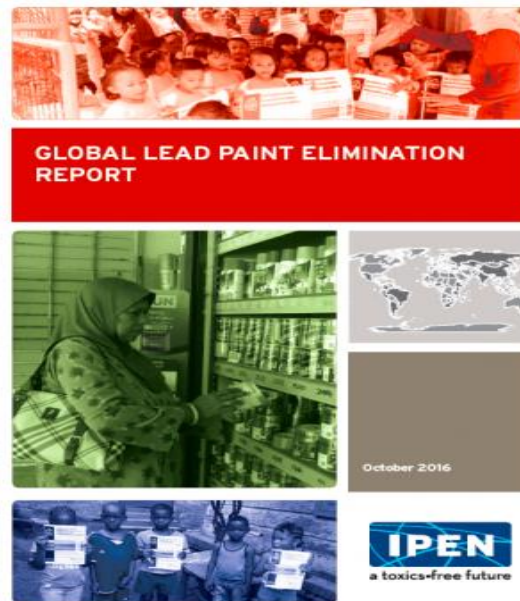


GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO ELIMINATE LEAD PAINT

EPA plays a major leadership role as chair of the Lead Paint Alliance.

IPEN Lead in Paint Status

- 88 IPEN PO studies done/ongoing in 55 countries (almost 30% of all countries)
- National regulations in 5 countries, Draft regulations in 4 countries, Regional standard(s) in East Africa
- National and/or regional campaign ongoing in all IPEN regions
- International collaborations (US EPA, UN Environment, etc.)



Examples of lead in paint in EECCA

Armenia 2016



49 samples manufactured in different countries

9 samples – above 10,000ppm

180,000 ppm (yellow, manufactured in Armenia,
brand headquarters – Iran)

29 Paints containing lead above 90 ppm were
manufactured in Iran, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine,
and United Arab Emirates.

Examples of lead in paint in EECCA Kazakhstan 2016



- 45 samples manufactured in different countries;
- Average concentration – 15,700ppm;
- No information on lead level on the label;
- Maximum concentration – 150,000ppm (yellow, Iran)
- 21,000 ppm (yellow, manufactured in Russia)
- 6,100 ppm (yellow, manufactured in Ukraine)



Examples of lead in paint in EECCA Russia 2016



- 72 samples purchased in Russia;
- No information on lead level on the label;
- Maximum concentration – 50,000ppm (red, Russia)
- 48,000 ppm (red, manufactured in Russia, brand headquarters – Russia)
- 32,000 ppm (red, manufactured in Russia, brand headquarters – Russia)
- 9,700 ppm (yellow, manufactured in Russia, brand headquarters – Russia)



Collaborations with stakeholder associations

- Paint manufacturers, retailers, builders, painters and others often have industry associations that can effectively reach out to their members



International Paint & Printing Ink Council



International Paint and Printing Ink Council, Inc. (IPPIC)
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
World Health Organization (WHO)
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action
October 25-31, 2015

- Many also have newsletters and other magazines that can be utilized for information sharing
- **Verification of lead-free claims is needed**



a toxics-free future

Media as a vehicle

- Media is typically attracted to special happenings, heartfelt stories and important people -- high level public officials, celebrities
- Visual media (print, TV, online) likes a good photo opportunity, plan in advance



European Union (EU) Ambassador Guy Ledoux (left) and...
 Caption: METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES - 2014/06/24: European Union (EU) Ambassador Guy Ledoux (left) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Environment Sec. Ramon J.P. Paje (right) with the students of Commonwealth Elementary School in support for the Lead and Mercury Safe Schools for Bright and Healthy Children that was campaign by Ecowaste Philippines in Commonwealth Elementary School Quezon City. (Photo by Gregorio B. Jhun James Jr./Pacific Press/Agf/Photo via Getty Images)
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- Use media to convey a message
 - Enactment of a regulation
 - Hazards of lead paint
 - Responsible paint manufacturers that voluntarily reformulated their paint

90 ppm lead: new standard in paints

By A Staff Reporter
 Kathmandu, Dec 25

A new standard of 90 ppm lead in paints to protect children's health by eliminating hazardous levels of lead in paint has been promulgated through notification in Nepal Gazette by Government of Nepal, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE).

The new standard has been implemented as per the Rule 15 of Environment Protection Regulation 1997. The new measure will ensure children of Nepal grow up to be healthy adults who can reach their full intellectual potential.

"The danger of lead exposure in Nepal is real and children are the most severely affected. Lead has impacts on brain development leading to lower IQ, mental retardation and kidney damage. These effects have a negative impact on school performance and are non-reversible."

In Nepal, CEPHEID demonstrated that most paint companies in Nepal, including some major brands, sell paint that contains high levels of lead. The result is that schools, households, offices are contaminated with dust with high lead levels.

Lead is easy to replace since less harmful chemicals exist. Some brands produced in Asia have already adopted other formulas with no impact on production costs.

According to 2011 census data, 9.5 million Nepalese children (about 36 % of total population) are at their golden age of development. Recent studies by CEPHEID demonstrated that most paint companies in Nepal, including some major brands, sell paint for household use that contains unsafe levels of lead that exceed recognized worldwide standards. In some cases, CEPHEID found, schools also were contaminated with dust with high lead levels.

The new standard sets a mandatory limit of 90 parts per million (ppm) lead content for any paint imported, produced, sold or used in Nepal. The standard is consistent with other lead paint standards around the world.

Nepal is the 53rd country in the world to establish lead paint regulation and one of only a handful of low- and middle-income countries to set limits on lead in paint. Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (AELP) has set a goal of eliminating lead in paint in all countries by the year 2020.



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Summary

- Awareness Raising enables people to act
- A clear strategy often gives better results
- Different audiences may require different strategies
- Key stakeholders can help in spreading awareness
- Data on lead in paint important tool

Eco-Accord Information Service on Chemical Safety

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