

2024

# List of Resources and Tools: Lead and Lead in Paint



World Health  
Organization

Global Alliance to  
Eliminate Lead Paint



No.1

## Knowledge management



The following websites serve as central points for hosting and disseminating information.



### [Lead as a Chemical of Major Public Health Concern](#)

This website provides a repository of information about lead as one of the 10 chemicals of major public health concern.



### [Lead Paint Alliance, Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint](#)

The webpage for the Lead Paint Alliance contains information on the composition of the Alliance and contributors to the work. The website provides links to information and activities of the Alliance including a regular newsletter with news and updates on lead and lead paint.



### [WHO Annual Campaign: International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#)

Each year a dedicated campaign website provides a focus for activities and provides links to up-to-date campaign materials is developed each year. An event registration link provides access to a database of events held each year. 2024 will be the twelfth year of campaigning.



### [Children's Environmental Health Collaborative hosted by UNICEF](#)

This collaborative hosted by UNICEF aims to mobilize international action to protect child health and development from the impact of climate change and environmental degradation. A spotlight on lead poisoning provides access to information, videos and other resources.



### [Lead in Paint Community of Practice](#)

The purpose of the community of practice for lead in paint is to support all those working to eliminate lead paint. A dedicated webpage provides a link to sign up for Lead in Paint Community of Practice and access sessions digests and recordings.



### [SAICM Knowledge Hub](#)

Provides a hub for information of SAICM emerging policy issues including lead in paint along with a virtual assistant Kemy to help the reader find relevant information. The hub contains an interactive map based on the data from the WHO Global Health Observatory.



### [WHO Global Health Observatory](#)

Provides an interactive map of the status of legally binding controls on lead paint in all countries together with supporting information on the laws in countries of interest. Maps are customizable for different regions and groups of countries.



### [Global Environment Facility \(GEF 9771\) Project Lead Paint Component](#)

Website available on the SAICM website containing the outcomes of GEF project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern. This project had a dedicated component to addressing Lead in Paint and focused on promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint.

## General advocacy and awareness raising materials

These materials have been designed to assist in organizing campaigns and use of social media.



### [Social Media Post Builder \(2024\)](#)

This tool provides customizable social media posts, graphics, and other tools to enable interested parties to support and share campaign messages.



### [Report on activities during the ninth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, 24-30 October 2021](#)

This reports provide information on the events that took place in ILPPW 2021 including country activities, social media reach and impact.



### [WHO Guidance on Organizing an advocacy or Awareness-raising Campaign on Lead Paint \(2020\)](#)

The purpose of the document is to provide guidance and tools to support advocacy or awareness-raising activities to build momentum in the country toward the development, adoption, and implementation of legally binding measures. The document builds upon the experience of the WHO in its annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week campaign. It also draws upon communication guidance developed by WHO. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian.





## Technical information



### [Global Health Burden and Cost of Lead Exposure in Children and Adults: A Health Impact and Economic Modelling \(2023\)](#)

Larsen, B and Sánchez-Triana, Lancet Planet Health 2023. This paper contains an estimate of the global burden and cost of intelligence quotient (IQ) loss and cardiovascular disease mortality. It is estimated that the health and economic costs are at par with PM2.5 air pollution. However much work remains to be done to improve the quality of blood lead level measurement data especially in LMICs.



### [Global Burden of Disease from Lead Exposure. Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation \(2024\)](#)

This publication by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) provides the updated number of the attributable global deaths, YLLs, YLDs and DALYs from exposure to lead in 2021. It estimates that 1.54 (-0.185 to 3.22) million deaths may be lost prematurely.



### [WHO Children and Digital Dumpsites: E-Waste Exposure and Child Health \(2021\)](#)

This report summarizes the latest scientific knowledge on the links between informal e-waste recycling activities and health outcomes in children.



### [Childhood Lead Poisoning \(2010\)](#)

This booklet focuses on what is known about childhood lead poisoning, an entirely preventable disease.



### [UNICEF The Toxic Truth \(2020\)](#)

This publication contains a compilation of evidence that lead poisoning is a much greater threat to the health of children than previously understood. It is estimated that approximately 815 million children are estimated to have blood levels above 5 µg/dL.



### [WHO Lead in Drinking Water: Health Risks, Monitoring and Corrective Actions. Technical Brief \(2022\)](#)

This document provides practical guidance to support the assessment and management of lead contamination in drinking-water supplies. It is available in English and French.



### [UNEP Report An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment \(2020\)](#)

The report informs the international community about the current situation of specific issues of concern (including lead in paint) in order to support further discussion at UNEA5 and other international forums working towards sound management of chemicals and waste. It is available in English and its summary in other UN languages. A related survey of stakeholder information is also available [here](#).



### [WHO Guideline for Clinical Management of Exposure to Lead \(2021\)](#)

This Guideline provides evidence-based guidance to assist physicians in making decisions about the diagnosis and treatment of lead exposure for individual patients and in mass poisoning incidents.



# Information for campaigners



## 4.1 Reformulation



### [UNEP Reformulation is Entirely Possible: Summary of the Lead Paint Reformulation - Technical Guidelines and How to Use this Information \(2022\)](#)

This document summarizes information from the Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines. This summary is also intended to highlight how the information can be used by different stakeholders involved in the phasing out of lead paint. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.



### [Rethink Priorities Report on Exposure to Lead Paint in Low- and Middle-income Countries \(2023\)](#)

The primary focus of the report is to provide an overview of what is currently known about the exposure to lead paints in low- and middle-income countries.



### [UNEP Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines \(2022\)](#)

This document, developed with the support Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, addresses both capacity constraints and technical barriers to the substitution of lead compounds in paints, with a focus on the needs of small and medium sized enterprises for the effective and efficient reformulation of paint. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

## 4.2 Health



### [WHO Questions and Answers on Lead Poisoning \(2024\)](#)

This resource provides answers to frequently asked questions about lead in general, lead paint, and the Lead Paint Alliance. It is available in English.



### [WHO Factsheet: Lead Poisoning and Health \(2024\)](#)

This document presents key facts on lead, the sources and routes of exposure, the health effects of lead exposure in children and adults, and the burden of disease from lead exposure. It can be used as source material for locally developed campaign materials. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.



### [WHO Preventing Disease Through Healthy Environments: Exposure to Lead: A Major Public Health Concern, Third Edition \(2023\)](#)

This WHO document provides concise information about chemicals in general, including sources of exposure to lead, health impacts, guideline values for lead in key media, and risk mitigation measures. It is available in English.



### [WHO Brief Guide to Analytical Methods for Measuring Lead in Blood, Second Edition \(2020\)](#)

This document outlines the various methods available for measuring lead in blood in order to assess lead exposure. It is available in Chinese, English, French, and Spanish.

## 4.3 Testing



### [UNEP Lead in Paint Laboratory Database \(2021\)](#)

The Lead in Paint Laboratory Database lists laboratories from all UN regions capable of identifying and quantifying lead in paint samples. For each listed laboratory, the databank offers publicly available information of interest, such as contact details, number of staff, instrumentation, analytical techniques, accreditation, etc.



### [WHO Brief Guide to Analytical Methods for Measuring Lead in Paint, Second Edition \(2020\)](#)

This document outlines the various methods available for measuring lead in existing paint and new paint. It is available in Chinese, English, French and Spanish.



### [IPEN The International Pollutants Elimination Network](#)

A global network of public interest organizations improving chemical policies and raising public awareness to ensure that hazardous substances are no longer produced, used or disposed of in ways that harm human health and the environment. IPEN has been engaged in testing lead paint since 2009 and have a range of information and case studies on work in this area.



### [Lead Exposure Elimination Project: Paint Testing \(2023\)](#)

LEEP is a non-governmental organization that focuses on conducting paint studies to collect country specific data, providing technical assistance to help paint manufacturers to switch to lead-free paint.



### [IPEN Lead levels in paint around the world \(2023\)](#)

Results from the most publicly available information are available from an interactive map.



### [ASTM International Webinars on Lead Paint Testing \(2022\)](#)

ASTM International regional webinars in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean on standard methods for testing for lead paint. Presentations from the webinar are available on the ASTM website providing technical information on sampling, good laboratory practice and the role of standard setting bodies. The webinars were co-sponsored by UNEP and US EPA.

## 4.4 Legal



### [WHO Global Elimination of Lead Paint: Why and How Countries Should Take Action - Technical Brief \(2020\)](#)

This document is intended for officials in government who have a role in regulating lead paint. It provides concise technical information on the rationale and steps required to phase out lead paint. It further presents the health and economic arguments for eliminating lead in paint, explains the recommended 90 parts per million (ppm) limit for lead in paint, and outlines the steps needed to achieve binding controls on lead paint.



### [WHO Global Elimination of Lead Paint: Why and How Countries Should Take Action - Policy Brief \(2020\)](#)

This policy brief summarizes key information explaining the background and rationale for eliminating lead paint, and describes what countries should do.



### [Lead Paint Alliance Frequently Asked Questions \(2020\)](#)

A list of over 30 questions and answers that deal with the typical issues raised when countries are considering or planning to develop lead paint laws. It is available in English.



### [UNEP Foresight Brief: The Need to Eliminate Lead Paint Globally \(2020\)](#)

This article highlights the harmful effects of lead in paint and the need for action to eliminate it.



### [UNEP Suggested Steps Toward Laws \(2019\)](#)

A fact sheet that outlines steps which have been helpful in countries that have adopted lead paint laws. The steps are not necessarily sequential or needed in every country. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian.



### [UNEP Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance \(2023\)](#)

This guidance provides countries with guidance for the development and implementation of compliance and enforcement strategies for lead paint laws. It describes key elements of compliance and enforcement strategies for government officials and provides examples, including from countries that have enacted lead paint laws. It is available in all UN languages.



### [Update on the global status of legal limits on lead in paint, March 2023](#)

A series of reports describes the status of lead paint laws in countries, as well as activities undertaken by countries where lead paint laws are in the process of being established.



### [UNEP Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint \(2018\)](#)

This document developed by UNEP, in cooperation with World Health Organization, United States Environment Protection Agency and other partners, provides guidance for countries drafting new laws or modifying existing laws to restrict lead in paint and includes a model law that can be adapted to fit a country's legal system. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.



### [Lead Paint Alliance Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Eliminate Lead Paint \(2021\)](#)

A collection of materials presented in slide format for advocacy and technical support for the elimination of lead paint. It includes information on the health, economic and environmental impacts of lead; why lead paint is a health hazard; paint formulation; analytical methods to measure lead in paint and in blood; and actions taken by selected countries to eliminate lead paint. The toolkit materials can be used as source material by government officials when initiating work on paint regulation.

## Multimedia

Available multimedia includes the following videos, webinars, and graphic materials



### 5.1 Infographics

#### [Fact: Lead is Toxic \(2018\)](#)



#### [Lead exposure can occur through \(2018\)](#)



#### [Ways to Protect Against Lead Poisoning \(2021\)](#)



#### [Lead paint is still permitted in many countries \(2021\)](#)



#### [Lead is toxic \(2021\)](#)



#### [Sources of exposure to lead \(2022\)](#)



#### [The toxic effects of lead \(2018\)](#)



#### [Lead, sources, common products, who is at risk and what can be done \(2016\)](#)



#### [Reduce your risk from lead exposure \(2021\)](#)



#### [Many toxic substances are found in everyday electronics \(2021\)](#)



#### [Environmental risks include air pollution, chemical, poor water, sanitation and hygiene](#)

### 5.2 Videos



#### [Four things you should know about lead \(2022\)](#)

This video explains why lead - and in particular, lead paint - is harmful to children and the need for countries to take action to stop this source of exposure. It is available in English, French, Russian, and Spanish.



#### [The need to eliminate lead paint \(2022\)](#)

This infographic and its accompanying video provide information on the need to eliminate lead paint, including why lead is toxic, ways to protect against lead poisoning, and how to reduce risk from lead exposure.



#### [WHO's Science in Five Video \(2021\)](#)

Lead poisoning prevention – In this episode in English, WHO's Lesley Onyon answers the questions: How big a public health problem is lead poisoning? What are the sources of lead poisoning and who are at risk? What can you do to protect yourself?



#### [You have the power to end lead poisoning \(2021\)](#)

This animated video from UNICEF, WHO and UNEP explains why exposure to lead is dangerous for children and how prevention is the only effective way to stop the damage caused by lead poisoning.



#### [How governments can put lead to bed \(2021\)](#)

This UNICEF/WHO/UNEP animated video describes how, by mobilizing collective action among governments, businesses and civil society to advocate for reforms to policies and legislation, lead can finally be eliminated.



#### [One in 36 Million: Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh \(2023\)](#)



#### [Dr Maria Neira's 2024 lead video](#)



### 5.3 Graphic materials



#### [Customizable ILPPW campaign materials \(2019-2024\)](#)

Campaign materials that can be downloaded in different languages and formats are always available from the WHO ILPPW campaign website. These materials can be used to help design local campaign-specific posters, flyers, and other visual materials. The materials generally include flyers, web banners, and social media cards and are available in UN languages. Editable posters are also available to be customized for local campaigns.



#### [Lead Paint Alliance Ban Lead Paint graphic and 10-year anniversary graphic \(2022\)](#)

This graphic can be added to campaign materials to link the campaign with the global effort to eliminate lead paint. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.



#### [Global Webinar “Advancing work on lead: lessons learned from the work on lead in gasoline, lead in paint and used lead-acid batteries” \(25 October 2022\)](#)

This webinar highlighted successes made at the global level with the support of UNEP and key partners including WHO and the BRS Secretariat, by:

- Sharing best practices, experiences, and lessons learned from work on addressing different sources of lead exposure;
- Gathering views on key opportunities in addressing the problem of lead globally and exploring synergies between the work of UNEP, WHO, and the Basel Convention and other key partners;
- Building momentum for action to tackle lead as an overall pollutant, as part of celebrating the 10th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

### 5.4 Webinars



#### [Worldwide voices: Perspectives in Tackling Lead \(30 October 2023\)](#)

This webinar aimed to unpack the significance of all these actions, discuss the challenges that LMICs face in drafting and implementing the necessary laws to safeguard their communities and curb the damage from lead exposure. It also hopes to provide a knowledge-sharing opportunity for successful endeavors to be scaled up and emulated in various parts of the world.



#### [Global Webinar for the Paint Industry on Eliminating Lead Paint \(19 November 2020\)](#)

The webinar featured presentations on topics most relevant to the paint industry, with a focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), such as views of the global paint industry, lessons learned from paint reformulation, and lead paint testing, and also provided the opportunity for questions and answers.



#### [Global Webinar for Policymakers on Eliminating Lead in Paint through Regulatory Action \(5 October 2020\)](#)

The webinar featured presentations on topics most relevant to policymakers, such as understanding the harms of lead paint exposure, developing regulations based on the Model Law, and working with industry on testing and reformulation efforts.



No.5

## Training materials



### [WHO/UNICEF Introduction to Children's Environmental Health](#)

This interactive online course has been developed based on the WHO training package for children's environmental health to help health workers to protect children's health from pollution and climate change. This addresses a pressing need as many providers have limited knowledge to recognize, assess and manage environment-related diseases in children. The online course is available free-of charge through the Agora learning platform. The course includes tailored training materials and resources, including examples of local initiatives to enable healthcare professionals to become empowered to better address these challenges in their local contexts. A module of the course is focused on lead and children's health.



### [WHO training package for children's environmental health](#)

This is a collection of training modules, internationally harmonized information and peer-reviewed materials to enable health care workers to be trained, and also to become trainers of their peers and colleagues. The modules include extensive notes and references, case studies, and self-evaluation tools, backed up by manuals and guidelines.

The modules include [training on lead for health care providers](#).



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