

- Painting contracting
- Mining
- Ceramics work
- Stained-glass making
- Jewelry making

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\*The US Consumer Product Safety Commission issues alerts and recalls for products that contain lead and may unexpectedly pose a hazard to young children. Additional information is available from Alliance for Healthy Homes, [http://www.cehn.org/alliance\\_healthy\\_homes](http://www.cehn.org/alliance_healthy_homes).

Whereas inhalation exposure usually occurs during renovation and remodeling activities in the home, ingestion happens during normal day-to-day play and mouthing activities. Sometimes a child will actually swallow loose chips of lead-based paint because it has a sweet taste. Water and food may also be contaminated with lead. A child does not need to eat loose paint chips to be exposed to the toxin; normal hand-to-mouth behavior, coupled with the presence of lead dust in the environment that has settled over decades, is the usual method of poisoning (Bose-O'Reilly, McCarthy, Steckling, et al, 2010; Campbell, Gracely, Tran, et al, 2012).

Because of family, cultural, or ethnic traditions, a source of lead may be a routine part of life for a child. Nurses must educate themselves about the practices of their patients and identify when such products may be a source of lead. The use of pottery or dishes containing lead may be an issue, as may the use of folk remedies for stomachaches or the use of some cosmetics (see [Cultural Considerations](#) box). Children of immigrants and internationally adopted children may have been exposed to sources of lead before arrival in the United States and should also be carefully evaluated for lead exposure (Raymond, Kennedy, and Brown, 2013). Other risk factors for having an elevated BLL include living in poverty, being younger than 6 years old, dwelling in urban areas, and living