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SP605-K-Lead Poisoning and Hobbies

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Recommended Citation
"SP605-K-Lead Poisoning and Hobbies," The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, 06-0186 SP605K-5M-2/06(Rep) R12-5310-013-004-06, http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexenvi/17

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Lead Poisoning and Hobbies

Tennessee Department of Health

Prepared by Martha Keel, Professor and Janice McCoy, former Research Associate, Family and Consumer Sciences

UT Extension

SP 605-K

Hobbies that involve lead include:

- making stained glass
- making pottery
- participating in gun & rifle activities
- refinishing furniture
- renovating & remodeling homes
- making fishing lures & sinkers

If your job or hobby involves exposure to lead, you need to take steps to reduce your, and your family's, risk of lead poisoning. Never eat, drink or smoke in a work area. Always wash your hands and face before eating, drinking or smoking. Wet clean the work area with a damp cloth and vacuum with a high-efficiency filter (HEPA) to reduce spreading lead-contaminated dust.

There is cause for concern regarding sources of lead outside the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) supervision. Some of these sources include lead-based artists' paints, lead solder used in electronics work and stained glass, fishing weights, lead toys and old painted toys and furniture.

When working on renovating and/or remodeling your home, do not use a dry scraper, belt-sander, propane torch or heat gun to remove lead-based paint. These tools can create large amounts of lead dust and fumes. Lead dust can remain in your home long after remodeling is completed. If you have children or pregnant women in the residence, it is best to temporarily move them out of the apartment or house until the work is done. These family members should remain out of the home until the area is properly cleaned. If it is not possible to move your family, the work area should be completely sealed off from everyone, especially those at greatest risk.

For those whose work or hobby involves guns and/or bullets, you should be aware that each time a gun is fired, lead dust and fumes spread through the air. This dust and fumes can be inhaled by the shooter. Take appropriate precautions to protect yourself and those nearby from unnecessary exposure.

Lead Testing at 1 and 2...
It's the Thing to Do

TENNESSEE CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

06-0186 SP605K-5M-2/06(Rep) R12-5310-013-004-06

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