



<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/toyjewelry.htm>  
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## Lead in Paint, Dust, and Soil

You are here: [EPA Home](#) [Prevention, Pesticides & Toxic Substances](#) [Pollution Prevention & Toxic Lead in Paint, Dust, and Soil](#) [Resource Center](#) [Toy Jewelry](#)

## Lead in Toy Jewelry

This page describes actions that relate to lead in children's products. The page also provides links to information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that can help you protect your children against the hazard, including a list of products recalled because of lead content.

### Background

Lead is a highly toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around our homes. Lead may cause a range of health effects from behavioral problems and learning disabilities to seizures and death. Children six years old and under are most at risk because their bodies are growing quickly.

When a child puts an object containing lead in his or her mouth, the child can suffer from lead poisoning. For example, in 2003, a child became lead poisoned from ingesting toy jewelry from a vending machine. On July 8, 2004, the threat of lead poisoning from toy jewelry led the CPSC to conduct a voluntary recall of 150 million pieces of metal toy jewelry sold widely in vending machines. Unfortunately, another incident occurred in 2006, when a child died from ingesting a toy charm containing lead. This incident prompted the voluntary recall of 300,000 charm bracelets. The charm and metal bracelets were given as free gifts with the purchase of shoes from one manufacturer.

Toy jewelry containing unsafe levels of lead has continued to be sold even after CPSC issued guidance to prevent the sale of these products. In addition to toy jewelry products containing lead, other products containing lead have been recalled, such as crayons, chalk and clothing. For a list of recalls, including recalls for products containing lead, visit CPSC's [Toy Hazards Recall Listing](#).

### Recent Actions

On April 21, 2006, the Sierra Club submitted a petition to EPA and CPSC to take certain actions regarding lead in children's products. EPA denied two of Sierra Club's requests in July 2006, and Sierra Club filed a lawsuit challenging that denial in September 2006. On April 13, 2007, EPA and Sierra Club reached a settlement. Under the settlement, EPA agreed to take certain actions that would complement other actions by EPA and its federal and state partners to protect children from lead exposure. These actions are designed to contribute to the federal goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning by 2010.

Under the settlement, EPA agreed to:

- Initiate a rulemaking to obtain existing health and safety studies on lead in children's products.

- Notify a number of companies of their obligation to inform EPA if they obtain information that products they manufacture or import present a lead-poisoning risk to children.
- Inform CPSC of concerns regarding corporate quality-control measures.

On April 30, 2007, EPA sent a letter to CPSC, describing its continuing concerns about the presence of lead in children's products. EPA also sent letters to 120 companies, alerting them to requirements under TSCA section 8(e):

"[a]ny person who manufactures, processes, or distributes in commerce a chemical substance or mixture and who obtains information which reasonably supports the conclusion that such substance or mixture presents a substantial risk of injury to health or the environment shall immediately inform the Administrator of such information unless such person has actual knowledge that the Administrator has been adequately informed of such information." 15 U.S.C. § 2607(e)

Recipients of the letter were either a party to a settlement with the State of California regarding lead in toy jewelry or were participants in a recall of children's products containing lead.

In response to the Sierra Club's petition, CPSC published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to ban children's jewelry containing more than 0.06% lead.

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) has evaluated whether commercially available lead test kits reliably and accurately detect the presence or absence of lead in consumer products, such as toy jewelry and children's vinyl toys. Based on this evaluation, CPSC does not recommend that these test kits be used for consumer products. CPSC's analysis was specific to consumer products and was not conducted on lead-based paint used in housing. Research on the use of these kits for testing lead in paint used in housing has been conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. NIST found that the test kits currently available do reliably detect the absence of lead-based paint. EPA believes that these kits are effective at ruling out whether lead-based paint is present. However, the kits may be overly sensitive and will indicate the presence of lead-based paint even at levels below the Federal standards. EPA is currently developing improved test kits.

## **More Information**

To find out more about your child's potential exposure to lead from toy jewelry, please visit CDC's Lead in Toy Jewelry Questions & Answers | en español: Información de seguridad de CDC sobre el plomo en joyería de juguete.