**What Are the Sources of Lead in Your Home?**

1. **Lead-based paint and dust from lead based paint.** Lead-based paint can be found in housing built before 1978.

Lead-based paint that is chipping, peeling, cracking, or chalking, or that has been disturbed by remodeling, sanding, dry-scraping, or power-washing, can create lead-contaminated dust that settles onto surfaces such as floors, countertops, window sills and furniture. This dust poisons children when children touch floors and other surfaces before touching their mouths or before touching food and other things that they put into their mouths. Wash your child’s hands and toys often. Always wash your child’s hands before meals. Vacuum and damp-dust indoor surfaces every week. Do not use a ‘feather-duster’ to clean- it will disturb dust into the air (see cleaning instructions).

When repairing and remodeling older homes, use lead-safe work practices (see back).

1. **Lead-contaminated soil.** The dirt around your home may be contaminated with lead from past remodeling, scraping and repainting jobs that may have occurred to your home in the past, even if your home is now sided. Soil may also be heavily contaminated with lead if the home is on a busy street where past use of leaded gasoline has caused lead to be deposited into the soil or if you live in an area where an industry has used lead in past or present manufacturing. Do not let children play in bare soil areas or next to the edges of the house, direct children to grassy areas for play. Cover bare soil areas with grass, mulch, or gravel. Take shoes off when entering the house.
2. **Lead-contaminated drinking water.** Water may be contaminated with lead, regardless of the water’s source. Many faucets in older homes and even new faucets contain leaded parts that can leak lead into water. Lead solder in household pipes and leaded components in well pumps have been in use for many years and can leak lead into drinking water. Even if you have replaced your inside plumbing with plastic pipe, the pipes under your yard that supply water into your home may also contain lead. Warm water causes more leaking of lead from these things into your water, so always use cold water for cooking and drinking and allow it to run for 3-5 minutes before using.
3. **Household products.**  Many of the items in your home, Car Keys, House Keys, Broken vinyl or metal mini-blinds, crib rails, toys, and other items can contain lead. Keep all items that are not food out of the mouths of children. Throw away broken mini-blinds and replace them with newer ones or with fabric curtains. Avoid letting your child have any toys or other items with small parts that could break off or that have surfaces coatings that can be easily scratched off with a butter knife or coin. Do not let young children play with real keys, use plastic ones. Young children should never play with jewelry or other items with small parts without close supervision. If an item is not in good repair, if it has small parts, if it has a surface coating, or if the child is putting the item into his or her mouth, throw it away or remove it to an area where young children cannot reach it.

Call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at Vigo County Health Department if you have any questions or concerns about childhood lead poisoning: (812) 231-6277.