

# Lead Prevention THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE Extension

## and Healthy Housing Newsletter

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Oh, the weather  
outside is frightful,  
But the fire is so  
delightful.  
Since we've no place  
to go,  
Let it snow;  
Let it snow;  
**LET. IT. SNOW!**

### A Snippet from History:

The lead-based  
paint ban was  
announced by the  
Consumer Product  
Safety Commission  
on September 2,  
1997, with  
the law to take  
effect in 180 days—  
March of 1978.

## Windows: Beyond the View



Even the most diehard southerners tend to think “Let it Snow!” when Christmastime draws near. To deny the wonder of the white stuff in December is the ultimate expression of “Bah, humbug” curmudgeonry. A word of warning, though, when excited little ones flock to the window to behold the winter magic . . . .

Windows, at any time of the year, represent the most common threat of lead poisoning in an older (pre-1978) home. The dangers of lead-based paint exposure may actually increase with the seasonal concerns associated with cold weather.

What is it that makes windows such villainous, lead-baring griches? In many older homes, residents have successfully encased the original layers of lead-based paint behind coats of *non*-lead-based paint.

**Thinking about a gift for yourself this Christmas – one that gives back?**

**Consider replacing old, single-hung windows for new, double-hung versions. While the initial financial outlay may be a bit daunting, double-paned windows will:**

**--increase energy efficiency;**

**--decrease utility bills (as much as 30 percent);**

**--muffle noise from the outdoors.**

**--add value to your home.**

--continued--

If, in fact, the paint with lead content was free of deterioration at the time the later product was applied, this is usually sufficient to prevent a lead hazard. Usually sufficient as it pertains to *walls*, that is. Doors and windows defy any efforts at encasement.

The wear and tear engendered by repeated openings and closings constantly grind away at paint layers, degrading them down to lead-based levels. One of the fundamental attractions of lead-based paint was its durability, an ironic twist that ensures it's still lurking under all those later layers, waiting to release its toxic dust into the air.

Those later, less robust coats of paint are easily debased, as well, when exposed to the ravages of weathering: sunlight and, especially in winter, *moisture*. Single-paned windows commonly suffer from the effects of condensation when confronted by cold air and—snow. As the warm air inside the house collides with the cold, damp air from without, telltale moisture accumulates on window sills, thereby accelerating the process of paint deterioration.

Lead-based paint *dust* is the abominable creature that robs young children of their full quota of intelligence. It is the inhalation of minute, invisible lead dust particles that most often causes the condition known as lead poisoning. While it is not usually possible to encase lead-based paint at windows and doors, it can certainly be policed with simple housekeeping strategies. A thorough soap and water cleansing at least once a week may be all that is necessary to contain lead particulate. Conversely, dry dusting and vacuuming readily disperse lead dust into the air.



Now Scheduling  
for 2015:

How can I help you  
with lead poisoning  
prevention in  
your community?

Let me hear from  
you!

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*Wishing one and all a  
holiday season warmed by  
the love of family and  
friends . . . .*