

2023

List of resources and tools: Lead and lead in paint



World Health
Organization

75⁺

HEALTH
FOR ALL

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

No.1

Knowledge management



The following websites serve as central points for hosting and disseminating information.



Lead as a chemical of major public health concern

This website provides a repository of information about lead as one of the 10 chemicals of major public health concern.



Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

The webpage for the Lead Paint Alliance. The Alliance regularly issues a newsletter with news and updates on lead and lead paint.



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Website

Hosted by WHO to provide a focus for activities held during the year. A separate campaign website with links to up-to-date campaign materials is developed each year. An event registration link provides access to a database of events held each year.



WHO Global Health Observatory

Provides an interactive map of the status of lead paint laws in all countries together with supporting information on the laws in countries of interest. Maps are customizable for different regions and groups of countries.



UNEP Lead Paint law status interactive map

Provides access to data on the status of national lead paint laws and is available on the SAICM knowledge hub.



Lead in Paint Community of Practice:

SAICM's dedicated website for preparation and participation in eight webinars to regulate lead in paint.



SAICM Knowledge

Provides a hub for information of SAICM emerging policy issues including lead in paint along with a virtual assistant Kemy to help the reader find relevant information.



SAICM Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project Lead Paint Component

The main website for SAICM to promote regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint.

No.2

General advocacy and awareness-raising materials



These materials have been designed to assist in organizing campaigns and use of social media



WHO Guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness-raising campaign on lead paint (2020)

The purpose of the document is to provide guidance and tools to support advocacy or awareness-raising activities to build momentum in the country toward the development, adoption and implementation of legally binding measures. The document builds upon the experience of the WHO in its annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week campaign. It also draws upon communication guidance developed by WHO. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.



Social media toolkit (2022)

This toolkit provides customizable social media posts, graphics, and other tools to enable interested parties to support and share campaign messages. In 2022 the toolkit was accompanied by an interactive social media builder that enables images to be added to selected tweets about involvement in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of action, and a Resource list.

Reports on activities during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW)

These reports provide information on the events that took place in different ILPPW weeks including social media reach and impact.



Report on activities during the ninth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, 24-30 October 2021



Report on activities during the eighth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, 25-31 October 2020



Report of the 2019 International Lead poisoning Prevention Week



Technical information for specific audiences



Economic costs of childhood lead exposure in low- and middle-income countries (2008)

This website provides estimates of the economic costs linked with childhood lead exposure in low- and middle-income countries, based on research and modelling by the Division of Environmental Pediatrics at New York University, United States of America. While it is not possible to identify the costs attributable solely to exposure to lead paint, it does support advocacy for reduction in lead exposure overall. It is available in English.



UNEP Report "An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment" (2020)

The report aims to inform the international community about the current situation of specific issues of concern (including on lead in paint), based on a review of published evidence, in order to support further discussion at UNEA5 and other international forums working towards sound management of chemicals and waste. It is available in English and its summary in other UN languages.



WHO Children and digital dumpsites: e-waste exposure and child health (2021)

This report summarizes the latest scientific knowledge on the links between informal e-waste recycling activities and health outcomes in children.



UNEP summary (2020)

A two-page factsheet has been prepared to summarize the information on lead provided in the UNEP report "An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment" (2020).



WHO Lead in drinking-water: Health risks, monitoring and corrective actions. Technical brief (2022)

This document provides practical guidance to support the assessment and management of lead contamination in drinking-water supplies. It is available in English and French.



SAICM Survey on Emerging Policy Issues and Other Issues of Concern

The report provides a summary of responses received from over 60 SAICM stakeholders on the ongoing work on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, including lead in paint. It is available in English.

Factual and technical information

4.1 Reformulation



UNEP Reformulation is Entirely Possible: Summary of the Lead Paint Reformulation - Technical Guidelines and How to Use this Information (2022)

This document summarizes information from the Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines. This summary is also intended to highlight how the information can be used by different stakeholders involved in the phasing out of lead paint. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.



Rethink Priorities Report on Exposure to lead paint in low- and middle-income countries (2023)

The primary focus of the report is to provide an overview of what is currently known about the exposure to lead paints in low- and middle-income countries.



UNEP Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines (2022)

This document, developed with the support Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, addresses both capacity constraints and technical barriers to the substitution of lead compounds in paints, with a focus on the needs of small and medium sized enterprises for the effective and efficient reformulation of paint. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Factual and technical information

These materials can be used to support the provision of technical information in a communication campaign and to advance work on preventing exposure to lead, for example by developing and implementing a lead paint law.



4.2 Health



WHO Guideline for clinical management of exposure to lead (2021)

The purpose of this Guideline is to assist physicians in making decisions about the diagnosis and treatment of lead exposure for individual patients and in mass poisoning incidents.



Childhood lead poisoning (2010)

This booklet focuses on what is known about childhood lead poisoning, an entirely preventable disease.



WHO Questions and answers on lead poisoning (2023)

This resource provides answers to 15 questions about lead in general, lead paint and the Lead Paint Alliance. It is available in English.



UNEP Foresight Brief: The Need to Eliminate Lead Paint Globally (2021)

This article highlights the harmful effects of lead in paint and the need for action to eliminate it.



WHO factsheet: lead poisoning and health (2023)

This document presents key facts on lead, the sources and routes of exposure, the health effects of lead exposure in children and adults and the burden of disease from lead exposure. It can be used as source material for locally developed campaign materials. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.



WHO Preventing disease through healthy environments: exposure to lead: a major public health concern, second edition (2023)

This WHO document provides concise information about chemicals in general, including sources of exposure to lead, health impacts, guideline values for lead in key media, and risk mitigation measures. It is available in English.

4.3 Testing



Lead Exposure Elimination Project: Paint testing (2023)

LEEP conducts projects to drive effective policies to eliminate lead poisoning across the globe.



ASTM International Webinars on Lead Paint Testing (2022)

ASTM International hosted regional webinars in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean on standard methods for testing for lead paint. The webinars were co-sponsored by UNEP and US EPA.



IPEN Lead levels in paint around the world (2022)

This map, published on the IPEN website, summarizes the results from paint studies conducted since 2009. This information can help to inform national discussions about lead paint laws.



UNEP Lead in paint laboratory database (2021)

The Lead in Paint Laboratory Database lists laboratories from all UN regions capable of identifying and quantifying lead in paint samples. For each listed laboratory, the databank offers publicly available information of interest, such as contact details, number of staff, instrumentation, analytical techniques, accreditation, etc.



WHO Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in paint, second edition (2020)

This document outlines the various methods available for measuring lead in existing paint and new paint. It is available in Chinese, English, French and Spanish.



WHO Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in blood, second edition (2020)

This document outlines the various methods available for measuring lead in blood in order to assess lead exposure. It is available in Chinese, English, French and Spanish.

4.4 Legal



UNEP Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance (2023)

The purpose of the present Guidance, developed with the support of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, is to provide countries with guidance for the development and implementation of compliance and enforcement strategies for lead paint laws. It describes key elements of compliance and enforcement strategies for government officials and provides examples, including from countries that have enacted lead paint laws. It is available in English.



WHO Global Health Observatory: regulations and controls on lead paint (2023)

This is an interactive map and database providing information on the status of lead paint laws in countries. It can be used to find out what regulatory controls apply in neighboring countries or important trading partners. It is available in English.

Update on the global status of legal limits on lead in paint

This annual report describes the status of lead paint laws in countries, as well as activities undertaken by countries where lead paint laws are in the process of being established. This report is one of the activities of the Lead Paint Alliance. UNEP and WHO serve as the joint Secretariat for this international voluntary initiative which promotes establishing lead paint laws in all countries as one of its key priorities.



Update on the global status of legal limits on lead in paint, December 2021



Update on the global status of legal limits on lead in paint, December 2020



Update on the global status of legal limits on lead in paint, December 2019



UNEP model law and guidance for regulating lead paint (2018)

This document developed by UNEP, in cooperation with World Health Organization, United States Environment Protection Agency and other partners, provides guidance for countries drafting new laws or modifying existing laws to restrict lead in paint and includes a model law that can be adapted to fit a country's legal system. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The WHO Global Health Observatory UNEP lead paint law status interactive map. Based on data from the WHO Global Health Observatory on regulations and controls on lead paint, UNEP's map allows users to filter by year a law was established, region, country, and income level.



Lead Paint Alliance toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint (2021)

A collection of materials presented in slide format for advocacy and technical support for the elimination of lead paint. It includes information on the health, economic and environmental impacts of lead; why lead paint is a health hazard; paint formulation; analytical methods to measure lead in paint and in blood; and actions taken by selected countries to eliminate lead paint. The toolkit materials can be used as source material by government officials when initiating work on paint regulation. The WHO Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead in paint, second edition (2021) is also available in English.



WHO Global elimination of lead paint: why and how countries should take action – technical brief (2020)

This document is intended for officials in government who have a role in regulating lead paint. It provides concise technical information on the rationale and steps required to phase out lead paint. It further presents the health and economic arguments for eliminating lead in paint, explains the recommended 90 parts per million (ppm) limit for lead in paint, and outlines the steps needed to achieve binding controls on lead paint.



WHO Global elimination of lead paint: why and how countries should take action – policy brief (2020)

This policy brief summarizes key information explaining the background and rationale for eliminating lead paint, and describes what countries should do.



Lead Paint Alliance frequently asked questions (2020)

A list of over 30 questions and answers that deal with the typical issues raised when countries are considering or planning to develop lead paint laws. It is available in English.



UNEP Suggested steps toward laws (2019)

A fact sheet that outlines steps which have been helpful in countries that have adopted lead paint laws. The steps are not necessarily sequential or needed in every country. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

Multimedia



Multimedia comprised the following videos, webinars and graphic materials that were in several cases also translated into national or local languages by campaign organizers.

5.1 Infographics

Available in Arabic (AR) Chinese (CH), English (EN) French (FR), Russian (RU) and Spanish (SP)

Fact: lead is toxic (2018)



Lead exposure can occur through (2018)



Ways to protect against lead poisoning (2021)



Lead paint is still permitted in many countries (2021)



Lead is toxic (2021)



Sources of exposure to lead (2022)



The toxic effects of lead (2018)



Lead, sources, common products, who is at risk and what can be done (2016)



Reduce your risk from lead exposure (2021)

5.2 Videos



Four things you should know about lead (2022)

This video explains why lead – and in particular, lead paint – is harmful to children and the need for countries to take action to stop this source of exposure. It is available in English, French, Russian and Spanish.



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022

Message by Dr Maria Neira, Director of the Department Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO.



The need to eliminate lead paint (2022)

This infographic and its accompanying video provide information on the need to eliminate lead paint, including why lead is toxic, ways to protect against lead poisoning and how to reduce risk from lead exposure.



WHO's Science in Five Video (2021)

Lead poisoning prevention – In this episode in English, WHO's Lesley Onyon answers the questions: How big a public health problem is lead poisoning? What are the sources of lead poisoning and who are at risk? What can you do to protect yourself?



You have the power to end lead poisoning (2021)

This animated video from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO and UNEP explains why exposure to lead is dangerous for children and how prevention is the only effective way to stop the damage caused by lead poisoning.



How governments can put lead to bed (2021)

This UNICEF/WHO/UNEP animated video describes how, by mobilizing collective action among governments, businesses and civil society to advocate for reforms to policies and legislation, lead can finally be eliminated.

5.3 Graphic materials



Customizable ILPPW campaign materials (2019-2022)

One of the features of the ILPPW campaign website was the availability of a range of campaign materials which could be downloaded in different languages and formats from the campaign website. These materials can be used to help you design your own posters, flyers and other visual materials for your campaign. The materials comprised flyers, web banners and social media cards available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as editable posters that could be customized by the addition of specific logos and event slogans.



Lead Paint Alliance Ban Lead Paint graphic and 10-year anniversary graphic (2022)

This graphic can be added to campaign materials to link the campaign with the global effort to eliminate lead paint. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

5.4 Webinars



Global Webinar for Policymakers on Eliminating Lead in Paint through Regulatory Action (5 October 2020)

The webinar featured presentations on topics most relevant to policymakers, such as understanding the harms of lead paint exposure, developing regulations based on the Model Law, and working with industry on testing and reformulation efforts.



Global Webinar for the Paint Industry on Eliminating Lead Paint (19 November 2020)

The webinar featured presentations on topics most relevant to the paint industry, with a focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), such as views of the global paint industry, lessons learned from paint reformulation, and lead paint testing, and also provided the opportunity for questions and answers.



Global Webinar "Overview of findings from the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern" (27 April 2023)

The webinar introduced the 19 issues of concern discussed in the UNEP Report "An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment" (2020) to provide an overview of the report's findings, including on lead in paint.



Global Webinar "Advancing work on lead: lessons learned from the work on lead in gasoline, lead in paint and used lead-acid batteries" (25 October 2022)

This webinar provided a space to highlight successes made at the global level with the support of UNEP and key partners including WHO and the BRS Secretariat, by: a) Sharing best practices, experiences and lessons learned from work on addressing different sources of lead exposure; b) Gather views on key opportunities in addressing the problem of lead globally and explore synergies between the work of UNEP, WHO and the Basel Convention and other key partners; c) Build momentum for action to tackle lead as an overall pollutant, as part of celebrating the 10th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.



Chemicals and Waste Issues of Concern: Tackling Future Priorities (15 June 2023)

Following the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/7, UNEP is conducting a consultation process on issues of concern, posing risks to human health and the environment. This event focused on discussing priorities of further work, building on existing measures and initiatives, and further potential international action.



Global Consultation on Chemicals and Waste Issues of Concern (11 - 12 July 2023)

The Global Consultation focused on gathering information about the priorities for further work and potential further international action on the 19 Issues of Concern of the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern.



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