

Be Lead Free!

The Orange County Health Department, Office of Environmental Services, is pleased to announce that lead testing for household items is available on a walk-in basis. This new service is designed to give people the opportunity to bring items (with a flat surface and larger than the size of a matchbox) to the office at 800 Mercy Drive, Orlando on Thursdays from 9:00am-10:00am where they can be tested, while you wait. The fee for this testing is \$10.00 for up to ten items. If you prefer, an Environmental Specialist can perform an inspection in your home, by appointment, for \$56.00.

The concern is that even a small amount of lead is dangerous to young children, especially if they swallow or inhale lead dust. A child who is lead-poisoned may experience the following:

- Ø Decreased intelligence or ability to learn
- Ø Behavior problems
- Ø Health problems such as anemia, hearing damage, and speech and language delays
- Ø Seizures, coma, and even death

Children who may be a risk and should be tested include:

- Children ages 6 months to 6 years
- Living in a home built before 1978 that has paint that is peeling, chipping, or looks like alligator skin
- Living in a home with adults who work with lead.

The most common sources of lead include:

- Ø House paint
 - Ø Tap water
 - Ø Soil
 - Ø Lead Crystal and hand painted or lead glazed pottery and dishes
 - Ø Toys and jewelry made in other countries
 - Ø Mini blinds
 - Ø Home remedy's such as pay-loo-ah, greta, and azarcon
 - Ø Parents occupation or hobby
- www.orchd.com

Lead poisoning is a serious, yet preventable health problem. To find out more about the dangers of lead and our lead testing services, contact the Office of Environmental Services at **407-521-2630**.