



COLUMBIA CENTER
FOR CHILDREN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Columbia University

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Dear Moms,

You may have recently heard about the Mattel and Fisher-Price Toy Recall in the news. Mattel is one of the largest toy companies in the world. **Some of their toys that were sold in stores after May 1, 2007 may have been painted with lead-based paints.** Your child is not in any immediate danger, but it is important to be careful. Lead-based paints can be very harmful to your children.

This is how to find out if any of your child's toys were covered in lead paint:

1. Look at the attached pictures.
2. If you see a picture of your child's toy on the attached sheet, you need to remove the toy from your home.

This is what to do in order to safely remove the toys from your home:

1. Remove the toys from the reach of your children immediately..
2. Find the date code on the toy. The date code is located at the bottom of the toy and is 5 digits long.
3. Write this code on the "Recall Returns Form", under the column "Affected Date Code".
4. Repeat this step for any toy that you think may be a problem.
5. Fill out your contact information at the bottom of the "Recall Returns Form".
6. Place ALL the toys you are returning in one package with the "Recall Returns Form" and bring this package to the post office.
7. Please send this package to the following address:

Fisher-Price, Inc.
Attention: Lead-Paint Toy Recall
636 Girard Avenue
East Aurora, NY 14052

8. Once Fisher-Price receives your package of toys with the "Recall Returns Form", they will send you a monetary voucher for the value of those toys.

This is what to do if you are unable to return the toys:

1. Put the toys in a black trash bag and tie tight.
2. Throw away the trash bag.

Please Remember:

- DO NOT burn the toys.
- If you are not sure on what to do, please call the Mattel and Fisher-Price Hotline: 1-800-916-4498.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is lead bad for my child's health?

Lead is a metal that is found in the environment and can be dangerous to your child's health. If lead is swallowed or inhaled, it can lead to health problems. Remember, if your child has been playing with or chewing on any toys that are covered in lead-based paints, it is important that you remove the toy from their reach immediately. **Please see the front page of this letter for how to safely remove these toys from your home.**

I have young children. What do I need to know about lead?

Health problems can occur if your child has swallowed small pieces of lead-based paint or has breathed in lead vapors. If your child has been exposed to a lot of lead, it is called lead poisoning. Lead poisoning can lead to learning delays, behavioral problems, and hearing loss. In order to make sure your child doesn't get exposed to a lot of lead, it is important that you remove these toys from your home immediately.

I returned the toys to Mattel and Fisher-Price, but how do I know if my child has been affected by lead?

While your child is not in any immediate danger, it is important to be careful. The only way to know your child's lead level is to get a blood test done by your doctor. If a problem is found early, there is a lot that can be done to reduce lead exposure and prevent serious health problems.

Test Your Child for Lead:

- Ask your doctor to test your child's blood for lead.
- Call your doctor for the test results. Ask what your child's blood lead level is. And ask if the test result is normal.
- If the test result is not normal, ask your doctor what to do to lower your child's lead level.
- Also ask when your child should get another blood test.

What else can I do to keep my children safe and healthy?

- Wash your child's hands often, especially after playing, and before eating and sleeping.
- Clean your child's toys often and carefully.
- Feed your child healthy foods that are high in calcium, iron, and vitamin C. Good nutrition helps children's bodies resist lead.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please call your research worker (646-459-9600). We are always happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,

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