

ELIMINATING LEAD In Schools and Child Care Facilities

No Such Thing as a
Lead-Free School

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CDC LEPAC

Thursday, December 8, 2022

(virtually)

School Floor Fan Picture →



← *Healthy Schools Network logo*

ELIMINATING LEAD

No Such Thing as a Lead-Free School

HEALTHY CHILDREN

- Children are **not** just little adults.
- Schools are **not** just little offices.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS



Floor Fan/PhilaSD



Crumb Rubber



Closed Fountain (OR₂)



ELIMINATING LEAD: Schools

Context: Other Environmental Health Risks

- Lead in old indoor/outdoor paint; products; turf; drinking water
- Indoor Air pollution; mold/moisture; pests and pesticides; radon; noise; PCBs; asbestos; asthma/allergy triggers; chemical use/storage; poor ventilation, sanitation and lighting; nearby hazards; contaminated sites
- Deferred, neglected maintenance and major storm damage can result in the release of legacy toxics: lead, PCBs, asbestos
- Demolition and renovation of occupied schools can create dangerous new EH risks for children and other occupants

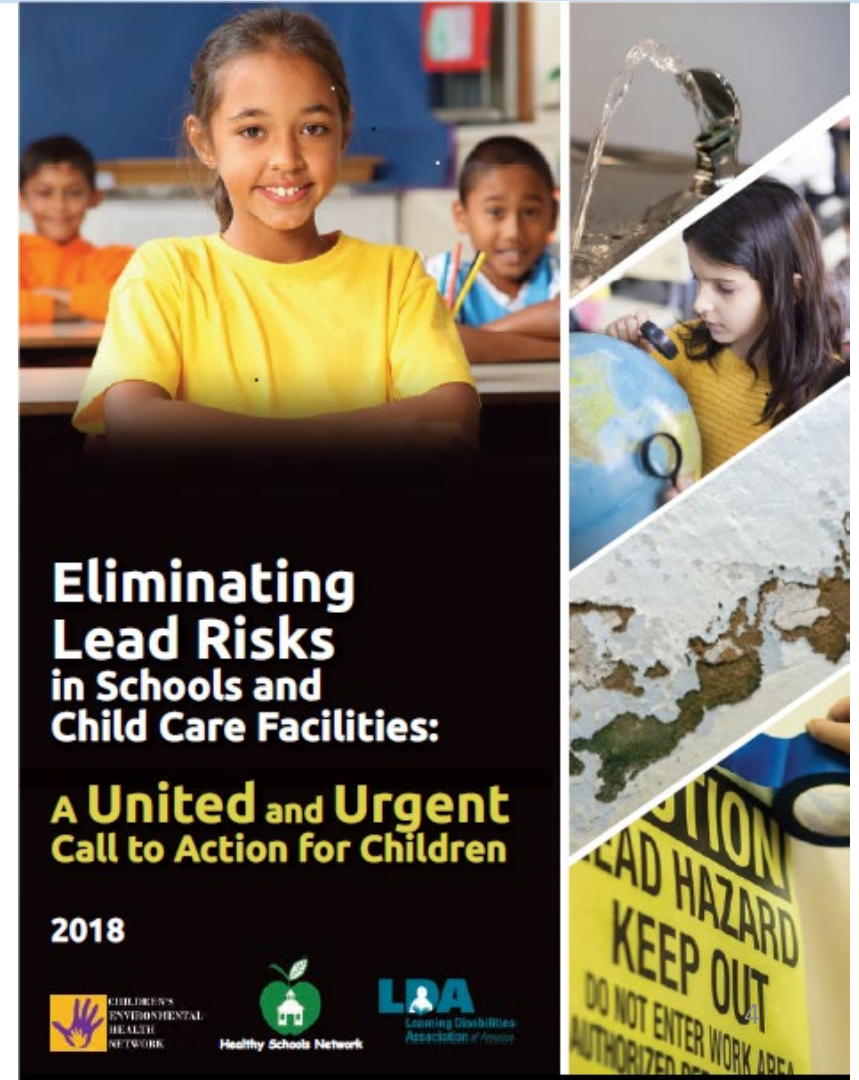


ELIMINATING LEAD: Schools Workshop Report

- There is no safe level of lead for children
- Lead poisoning is costly and preventable
- Recommends primordial prevention at the population level
- Finds school/childcare facilities are large group settings that offer an untapped public health opportunity

http://www.healthyschools.org/eliminating_lead_in_schools_and_childcare.pdf

Conference report cover →



ELIMINATING LEAD: Schools Paint

US EPA regulates Lead Based Paint

US EPA Lead-Safe Renovation Rule

➤ *Workshop Recommendations: strengthen, expand regulations*



Flaking lead paint from pipes and walls

Art Supplies



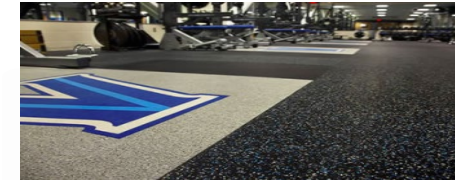
ELIMINATING LEAD: Schools Products

➤ *Workshop Recommendation: “lead-free” purchasing specifications*

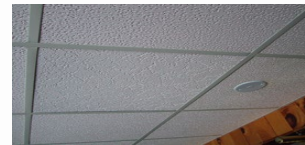
Lead In Building Products: Not Just Paint



Recycled Rubber / Tires



Infill



Fly Ash in Carpets, Ceiling Tiles



Vinyl Flooring



TV Screens in Imported Tile



ELIMINATING LEAD: Schools Product No-No-No/Low-Lead Specifications

Example: Lead-Free PC *fact sheet*



epeat logo

Green and Lead-Free PCs, Notebooks, and Table

*For model contract Language for schools and tips for parent associations:
visit <https://healthyschools.org/Clearinghouse/>*



ELIMINATING LEAD: Schools Drinking Water

Workshop Recommendations: lower action levels; federal funding

EPA certifies “lead-free” fixtures: inaccurate

All fixtures contain lead

- EPA regulates lead in plumbing; cannot regulate lead in school water
- EPA 3 T’S (Train, Test, Tell/Take Action Guidance)

US GAO: Lead Testing of School DW

Would Benefit from Improved Federal Guidance (2018)



ELIMINATING LEAD: Schools Drinking Water (continued)

Lead in Drinking Water: New York State (2016)

- Governor's bill passed legislature unanimously; signed 9/16

Results:

- NYS DOH establishes surveillance program
- Reported cost of testing at the tap > \$22M
- State DOH and SED challenges:
 - Public health capacity to help schools; qualified laboratory capacity to test samples
 - Cleaning/merging test at tap results self-reported by school districts
 - No NYS public schools reported lead service lines (BCS 2015*)

2021 NYS Law: remediate to 5ppb; report; no exemptions for “lead free”



HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK

Coalition for Healthier Schools

Champions federal and state environmental health policies for children

...for children...health...environment...education...communities...since 1995...



Current Interests

- Clean Air in Schools Challenge at US EPA
- COVID, Climate, Children & Schools: Disasters and Children
 - Summit Report 2022 COVID, Climate, Children & Schools
 - www.HealthySchools.org
 - NACCD
- NYS \$4.2 Billion Bond Act - implementation
- NYS 2021 Lead in School Drinking Water Law (regs TBA)



Educate & Celebrate



21st Annual National Healthy Schools Day

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

← web button

www.NationalHealthySchoolsDay.org



Contact Information

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