

Vinyl mini blinds and lead poisoning FAQ

Do all mini-blinds contain lead?

No, only vinyl mini-blinds imported from Mexico and Asia. Aluminum blinds have not been known to have lead.

How can you get poisoned from these blinds?

By chewing on the blinds, or by touching the lead dust accumulated on the blinds, then touching your contaminated hand to your mouth.

How does lead dust get on the blinds?

Through prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, the blinds deteriorate and the lead is released (leeches out) in tiny particles.

How can I tell if mine are vinyl or aluminum?

Scrape the blinds with a knife and if the paint comes off, they're metal. If the mark remains the same color, it's probably vinyl. Or, tap the blinds with a metal object such as a knife and listen to the sound. Third, the slats can be inspected at their edges-if the color is the same as the top and bottom of the slat it probably is vinyl. If the color is bright aluminum it is not vinyl. Fourth, the brackets holding the blind are usually easily determined to be either vinyl or metal.

Which brands contain lead?

Check the label on the box or call the store where you bought them to see if they were imported. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced that ALL imported vinyl mini-blinds contain lead. If the blinds were there before you arrived, then have them tested or replace them with another product.

Who is most susceptible to lead poisoning?

Children under the age of six and small pets, because they tend to chew and touch the blinds.

What should I do if my blinds have lead?

Carefully clean them with a high phosphate soap, such as the type used in dishwashers. When cleaning them, bring them outside and rinse thoroughly. Never vacuum them as this will cause the dust to spread throughout the home. Permanently remove the blinds and replace them if possible. Keep small children and pets away from the blinds. Keep cribs and furniture away from the blinds. Get blood tests for your children, even if they appear to be healthy. Wash children's' hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.

Are there any home testing kits available to test the blinds?

Yes, and if yours test positive you should have them tested further by a certified lab to determine if the amount of lead is dangerous.

What are the symptoms of lead poisoning?

Symptoms include anemia, hearing loss, hyperactivity, limited attention span, behavioral

problems or learning disabilities. Even small amounts of lead can harm a child's brain, kidneys, and stomach.

What is the Residential Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X, Section 1018)?

It is a disclosure law requiring notice of the presence of lead when selling certain dwellings built before 1978.

How do I get more information?

1. [US Consumer Products Safety Commission's Press Release on Vinyl Mini Blinds](#)
2. [ParentsPlace.com's Lead Poison prevention information](#)
3. [Lead Poisoning Prevention from the US Environmental Agency](#)
4. **National Lead Information Center:** 1-800-LEAD-FYI
5. **Consumer Product Safety Commission:** 1-800-638-2772
(To report product related injury): 1-800-638-2772
info@cpsc.gov

Regional offices:

-NY: 212-466-1612

-Chicago: 312-353-8260

-San Francisco: 415-744-2966

6. Your local city, county, or state health agencies.
7. [Lead in Porcelian Tubs](#)
8. [Lead in Ceramics](#)

http://www.parentsplace.com/health/safetyrecalls/articles/0,10335,203502_110081,00.html?arrivalSA=1&arrival_freqCap=1&pba=adid=6221680