

City Outlaws Lead Paint On Toys, Furniture, Walls

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The use of lead paint on toys, furniture and home interiors is prohibited under the Philadelphia Health Code.

The new ban took effect yesterday. Containers of lead paint also must carry a warning label listing the prohibited uses, said Dr. Norman R. Ingraham, city health commissioner.

Last year Philadelphia had 134 cases of lead poisoning in children, including five deaths. There have been three lead poisoning deaths this year.

Mental Retardation

Victims who survive frequently suffer mental retardation from brain damage.

Lead poisoning occurs when a child chews or mouths an object painted with a paint containing a toxic level of lead, he said.

Lead paint is defined in the new ordinance as paint in which the non-volatile ingredients contain more than 1 percent of lead by weight.

A first offense can result in a fine of \$25 to \$150, and subsequent violations up to \$300.

Investigations Planned

The Health Department will investigate surfaces in homes where doctors report lead poisoning cases, and will warn

Dealers will be allowed a reasonable time to comply with the labeling requirements before stores are investigated, but the inspection of suspected homes will begin immediately, Miano said.

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Welfare Unit Fights Use of Lead Paint

By KATRINA DYKE
Of The Bulletin Staff

The Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization has begun a campaign against the use of lead-based paint for the interior of apartments and houses.

"Lead poisoning is against the law, but nothing is being done to prevent it," Mrs. Roxanne Jones, WRO president, told a press conference yesterday in the organization's office, 455 N 13th st.

Citing statistics from the Accident Control Section of the city's Community Health Services, Mrs. Jones said 200 children develop lead poisoning in Philadelphia each year and one out of every six dies from it.

Although the use of lead paint on interior walls is prohibited, she said, many landlords still use it because it is cheaper than other paint. If the paint chips and small children nibble at it, she said, they can be poisoned.

Lead paint covered by unlead paint still presents a potential hazard, Mrs. Jones said, because if the top layer chips, the lead-based paint is exposed.

Campaign Goals

The campaign seeks for the city to lead paint

on the inside walls of low-rent housing, particularly city-owned housing, where Mrs. Jones said she has evidence lead paint is still often used.

—Educate parents about symptoms of lead poisoning and encourage them to take children to a health center for tests if they observe such symptoms.

—Get the cooperation of schools in education about lead poisoning and its detection.

"We are interested in preventing lead poisoning — nothing is ever done until after the fact," said Mrs. Jones.

Meeting Sought

She said the WRO has asked for a meeting with Health Commissioner Norman R. Ingraham, representatives of the Accident Control Section, the city Law Department and the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

Dr. Ingraham said Health Department officials will talk with Mrs. Jones about the situation.

He said lead poisoning of children is "a problem which is still with us," but the Health Department's detection program during the past three years has caught cases earlier than in previous years and that there have been no deaths in the past two years.

In older sections of the city, where the interiors of buildings have layers of lead paint, inspectors have required that the paint be removed and the interiors repainted, he said. The department made 425 specific orders of paint removal from the time the new city regulations went into effect in August, 1965, until December, 1966, he said.

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U. S. Hails City Health Dept. Drive on Lead Poisoning

By DAVID M. CLEARY
Of The Bulletin Staff

An official of the U. S. Public Health Service congratulated the Philadelphia Department of Public Health yesterday for its program in the prevention and treatment of lead poisoning.

Dr. Richard E. Marland, chief of the Service's Injury Control section, said this city has made major advances by:

—Making lead poisoning a reportable disease.
—Conducting studies aimed at finding out the source of lead poisoning.

Two-Day Seminar

—Issuing regulations which strictly control the use of lead-based paints, prohibiting their use entirely on toys, children's furniture, and rooms in which children live.

Dr. Marland made the key note address at the city Health

Department opened a two-day seminar on lead poisoning at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

Infants sometimes suffer lead poisoning by chewing or sucking on the railings of cribs painted with lead-based paints.

Urges Similar Programs

Dr. Marland urged the city to start similar programs in other areas of concern, such as burns. But, Dr. Marland said, it is not the province of the federal government to tell the city what to do. Instead, he said, the city is able better to determine its own needs and methods of combating them.

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