



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Real Facts about Having Toys Tested for Lead!

Kingsford, Michigan – January 8, 2008. With all the recent media coverage pertaining to children's toys made in foreign countries with a portion of their product comprised of lead, parents have become quite concerned and are seeking direction as to where or how they might have their children's toys tested for lead. There are dozens of websites listed for home test kits that claim they have the capability to test for lead in paint. It is not advisable that consumers use these kits for testing toys because actual testing has shown these kits don't always reliably detect lead; especially at lower levels. The acrylics on the surface of the toy need to be sanded off before testing. Also, each paint color needs a separate test and other elements like iron or chromate may interfere with the test results.

For recently purchased toys, an individual may visit the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department's website (www.didhd.org) as this site has a current listing for re-called toys. It also has a variety of general information pertaining to lead poisoning.

If a person discovers that the toy they are making an inquiry about is not on the listing, they have the following two options:

1. There is an old saying, "when in doubt throw out". or,
2. If a toy is quite valuable, no longer allow it to be used as a toy.

Anyone seeking further information regarding lead should contact the department's Kingsford office at (906) 779-7239 or the Iron River office at (906) 265-9913.

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