

# Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints

## Learning Center

Commission on Sustainable Development  
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# Why is lead paint still an issue?

- Paint containing lead has been and is still being used for decorating homes, schools, structures, toys, furniture, automobiles etc.
- Lead paint is still widely manufactured & sold for use in many developing countries.
- Exposure to lead from lead paint is still occurs:
  - Exposure during manufacturing
  - Exposure from legacy paint
  - Most common & concentrated sources of lead for children is from exposure to lead in paint and lead dust.
- Lead exposure can have profound and permanent adverse health effects on children.
- Lead also causes harm in adults, including workers.
- We can prevent exposure to lead!

# What is lead paint?

- The term “paint” includes: varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers or coatings used for any purposes. Paint is typically a mixture of resins, pigments, fillers, solvents, and other additives.
- “Lead paint” is paint to which one or more lead compounds have been added. Lead compounds that are typically added to paint are numerous.
- Lead compounds may also be present in paint as a contaminant from other paint ingredients. Current data from a number of countries suggests that lead levels in many decorative paints are less than 90 ppm and often below 45 ppm
- Efforts should be made to keep the total lead content in paints as low as possible

# Background

- The International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its second session, endorsed the establishment of a global partnership to promote the phase-out of the use of lead in paint
- The partnership (The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints) will serve as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
- United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Organization were invited to serve as co-secretariats of the Global Alliance.

# GAELP goals and objectives

- The overall goal is to prevent children's exposure to lead via paints containing lead, and to minimize occupational exposures to lead in paint.
- The broad objective is to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paint.
- Key activities areas, as agreed upon at ICCM2, for the elimination of lead paints:
  - Raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives
  - Guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure
  - Assistance to industry (manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers)
  - Prevention programmes to reduce exposure
  - Promotion of national regulatory frameworks.


# GAELP Focal Areas

- The Global Alliance has five key Focal Areas for organizing activities :
  - Health aspects
    - US Centers for Disease Control and the International Pediatrics Association
  - Environmental aspects
    - US Environmental Protection Agency and UN Environment Programme
  - Workers Health
    - International POPs Elimination Network
  - Legislation and regulations
    - University of Cincinnati and University of Lagos
  - Outreach to industry
    - International Paint and Printing Ink Council and OK Int'l

# GAELP meetings and events

- Meetings:
  - May 2010: Initial Global Alliance meeting,
  - December and March 2011 : Advisory group meetings
  - March 2011: Initial outreach meeting
  - April 2011: Presentation at the African Regional Meeting
  - June 2011: Side event at the upcoming LAC meeting

# GAELP Activities

- Ongoing Focal Area Activities:
  - Awareness raising
  - Developing and sharing information and tools
  - Recruiting contributors/partners to the work of the Global Alliance
  - Establishing and reviewing targets on which to evaluate the efforts of the Global Alliance
  - Developing political support for an international day of awareness for lead poisoning with an focus on lead in paint
  - Building a better picture of the uses of lead in paint by conducting a baseline survey 



# Next Steps

- For additional information on joining the Alliance contact:

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GALEP website:

<http://hqweb.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/LeadCadmium/PrioritiesforAction/LeadPaints/tabid/6176/Default.aspx>