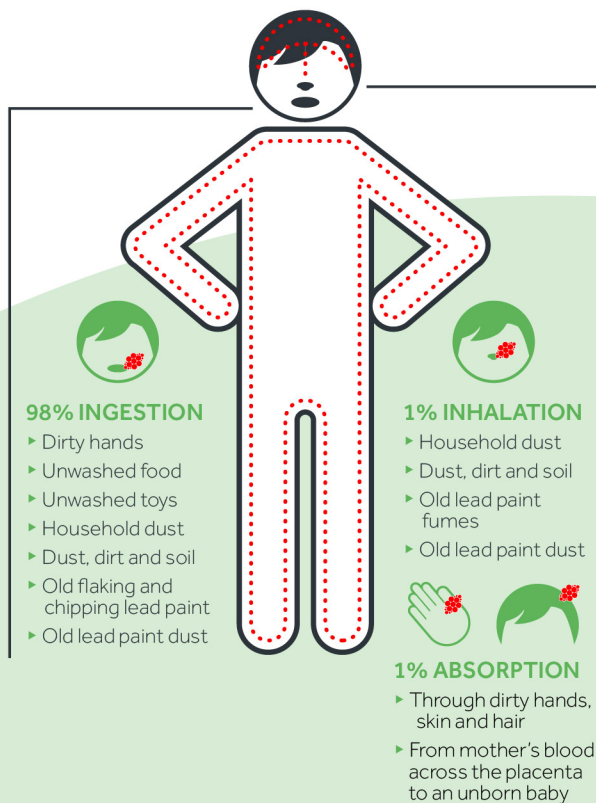


Lead is a metal that has been mined in Mount Isa for many years. It's in the dust, dirt and soil.

Our dry climate means lead dust gets into everything, via the air. It can also be found in old lead paint, especially in homes built before 1970.

Lead does not belong in the human body. When it gets into our bodies, it can build up and make us sick.

MAIN EXPOSURE PATHWAYS OF LEAD



Lead can harm kids' brain development, which may cause behaviour and learning problems that can last a lifetime.

There are simple things you can do to reduce blood levels and prevent harm from lead. Living smart can reduce the amount of lead our kids are exposed to, helping them grow up strong and healthy.



Lead Alliance



Lead Alliance



Living **Safely** with Lead

Get in **Touch**

FREECALL
1800 457 547
leadalliance.com.au

- Old Courthouse
Isa Street, Mount Isa.
Queensland 4825
- admin@leadalliance.com.au

Live safe.

Backyards and gardens.

North West
Hospital and Health Service



A GLENORE Company





Living safe

The best way to protect children from lead exposure is to keep them away from bare soil, dirt and dust. In the backyard, if you can't replace the soil or dirt entirely, you could cover it with:

- ▶ Plants, ground covers or grass.
- ▶ Natural materials including mulch or pine chips. Lawn clippings or fallen leaves are some of the best types of mulch
- ▶ Man-made substances like cracker-dust, pavers, concrete or astroturf.

Lead Alliance Backyard Improvement Program

Each year the Lead Alliance give Mount Isa residents with young children the opportunity to win some fantastic prizes by joining our Backyard Improvement Program. The program was established to stimulate Mount Isa residents with young families to create lead safe and water wise gardens/ backyards for children and families to enjoy.

Playing safe

Bare soil, dirt and dust are the biggest sources of lead exposure for children in the backyard. If your yard is too big to cover all the soil, you could fence off a smaller grassed area for the children to play in.

Fence off under the house, to stop children accessing the area.

A sandpit is a great way of providing a LeadSmart play area for the children. Use white beach sand, and cover the sandpit when it's not being used to stop lead dust getting into it.

Wash down or wet wipe outside play equipment and outdoor toys regularly.

When children play in dirt and soil outside, lead can get on their hands or under their fingernails. Keep your childrens' fingernails short, and make sure to use a nailbrush.

Children should wash their hands after playing outside or playing with pets. Ensure outdoor pets are washed regularly.

Make sure any painted outside areas in the yard, like sheds and fences are kept in good repair.



Growing safe

Trees, ground covers and tall shrubs can trap dust and stop it getting into your home.

There are plenty of local ground covers and plants that grow well in Mount Isa and don't need a lot of water. Speak to your local nursery about how to create a lead safe and low water use yards.

If you're growing vegetables, the garden beds should be raised and good soil is recommended. Vegetables should be well washed before being eaten.

Always wear gardening gloves when working in the yard, and remove shoes, leave outside before going inside.