

Background Information

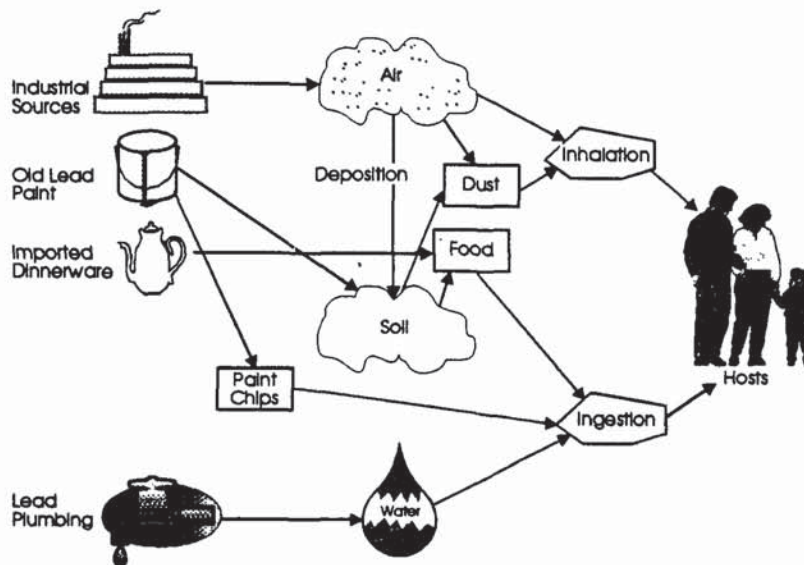


Exhibit 1 Distribution and Uses of Lead

Distribution and Uses of Lead

Lead is distributed in the environment through both natural and man-made means. Today, the greatest contributions of lead to the environment stem from past human activities. As illustrated in Exhibit 1, sources that produce excess lead exposure include the following:

- **Lead based paint** (which can flake off onto soil or be ingested by children).
- **Lead in the air** (from industrial emissions).
- **Dust and soil** (lead deposits in soils around roadways and streets from past emissions by automobiles using leaded gas, together with paint chips and lead paint dust, find their way into the mouths of young children living in polluted environments).
- **Lead in food** (deposed from air onto crops or lead glaze on imported dinnerware).

- **Lead dust** (brought home by industrial workers on their clothes and shoes).
- **Lead in water** (through corrosion of plumbing products containing lead).

The U.S. government has taken steps over the past several decades to dramatically reduce new sources of lead in the environment (e.g., by banning the manufacture and sale of leaded paint, by phasing out lead additives in gasoline, and by encouraging the phaseout of lead seams from food cans). More recently, the government has begun to attack existing sources of lead in the environment. For example, programs have been instituted to minimize the hazards posed by old lead paint covering millions of homes across the United States, more stringent air control standards are being applied to industries emitting lead, and more stringent regulations are in place to control lead in drinking water.