



Why the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action is held

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<http://www.ecologie.gov.mg/pourquoi-la-semaine-internationale-de-prevention-de-lintoxication-au-plomb-dans-les-peintures-du-21-au-27-octobre-2018/>

Translated from French into English by Orlando Aguirre-Lopez, The LEAD Group



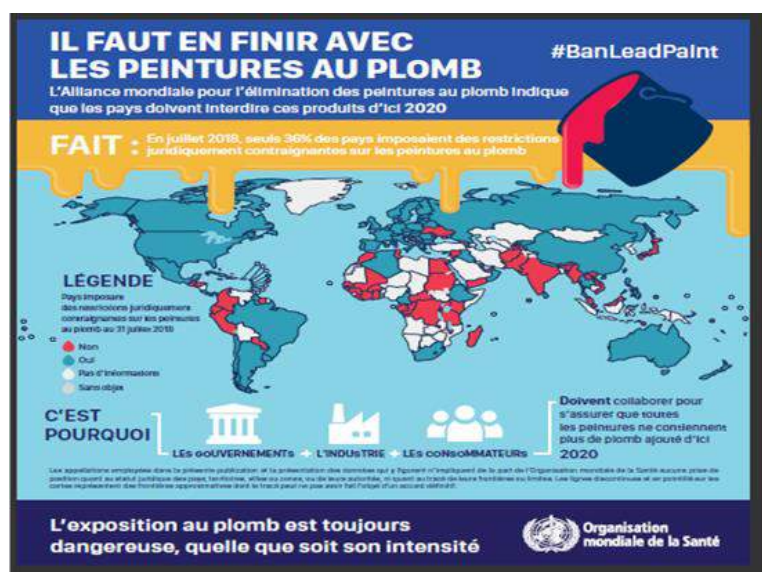
Lead and its dangers

The WHO classifies Lead among the 10 chemicals of serious concern for the public health and calls for an action of the States Members like Madagascar for the protection of the health, especially the workers, the children, and the women in pregnant condition.

In the present days, the lead paints represent a world concerning product by its broad existence in the houses, in certain children's toys, in the constructions...

Global alliance for the elimination of lead paints and the SDG

Since it has been found globally that lead paints are one of the sources of exposition in many countries, the **WHO and the UN for the Environment** have united their efforts for the creation of the **Global Alliance for the elimination of lead paints**. This cooperation initiative tends to channel and stimulate the efforts aimed to reach the international goals of prevention of the exposure of children to lead paints, and





reducing the workers' exposure to lead paints.

- **Their general purpose is to favour a progressive stop of the manufacture and the marketing of lead paints, and, finally, to eliminate the risks which they pose.**
- The global Alliance is an important means of contributing to the implementation of paragraph 57 practice the paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the resolution II/4B of the Strategic Approach to International Management of chemicals (SAICM), that concern both the phasing out of the lead paints.
- The elimination of lead paints will also contribute to the reaching of the target 3.9 of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** that looks to reduce from here to 2030, the net number of deaths and illnesses due to dangerous chemicals, and the pollution and contamination of the air, the water, and the soil. It responds as well to the target 12.4 of the SDG that tends from here to 2020, to achieve an environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with internationally agreed guiding principles, and reducing largely their emissions to the air, the water and the soil, in order to minimize their negative effects on the health and the environment.

The international week for the prevention of intoxication with lead in paint

The goal of the international week for the prevention of the intoxication with lead paints is therefore to join the international objects of preventing the exposure of children to lead paints, to reduce the exposure to these products in the workplace, and to favour consequently the gradual cessation of manufacturing and marketing of paints containing lead in order to eliminate absolutely the risks they pose.

The sharing of information through the web site of the [Ministry for Environment, Ecology and Forests](#) and posters to the concerned sectors within the framework of this international week aims to reinforce the knowledge of the dangers of lead in paints, to mobilize the collaboration of all stakeholders towards the taking





of measures of inter sectoral prevention and regulation and that Madagascar join the global concern for progressive reduction of lead paints and their impact on human health.

Lead Paints and ways of exposure

The persons are exposed to lead in their work and in their environment: For example, the production environments for lead paints, the stripping of walls with lead paint, the toys painted with lead paint, and the paint job are mentioned.

By ingestion or inhalation, lead is released into the body to reach the brain, liver, kidneys and bones. It is stored in the teeth and bones, where it accumulates over time.

The signs of Lead contamination

The signs are very varied, but they are cited below for information.

- The lead is deposited in the tissues and is responsible for a number of signs: the most characteristic is a blue border on the gums. The other signs are visible on bone radio and fundus.
- Lead causes abnormalities of the spermatozoa. These abnormalities seem reversible when the exposure stops.
- Lead is toxic to the fetus: this causes spontaneous abortions in women exposed to lead during pregnancy.
- Sign of encephalopathy or intracranial hypertension that causes drowsiness, headache, propulsion vomiting, double vision, confusion, balance disorders, and finally coma and convulsions.
- Severe fatigue, irritability, memory loss, difficulty concentrating, decreased libido, sleep disturbances, coordination disorders.
- Neuropathy.
- The kidney can be affected when resonates on the biological examinations practiced. There is evidence of tubulopathy and glomerulonephritis. The signs are mainly edema of legs and high blood pressure responsible for headaches. The risk is definitive kidney failure.
- The level of uricemia is high, and responsible for gout attacks and sometimes kidney stones. These events are exceptional nowadays.
- Anemia is possible: difficulty for the body to make haemoglobin because of lead poisoning.
- For massive intoxications, abdominal pain is noted, the pulse is rather slow, sometimes very slow.

To assess the level of human exposure, medical consultation and the determination of lead in blood and urine are very essential.



The week will be closed with a debate on Lead Paints in the «Hôtel du Louvre», on 26th October, 2018.