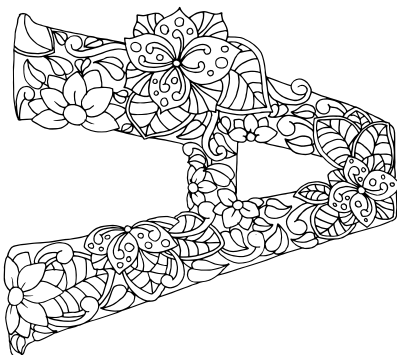
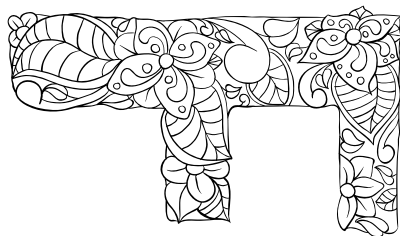




LEAD AWARE



COMMUNITY CARE

Helping Our Community
Stay Informed and Lead-Aware

A Message to Our Community

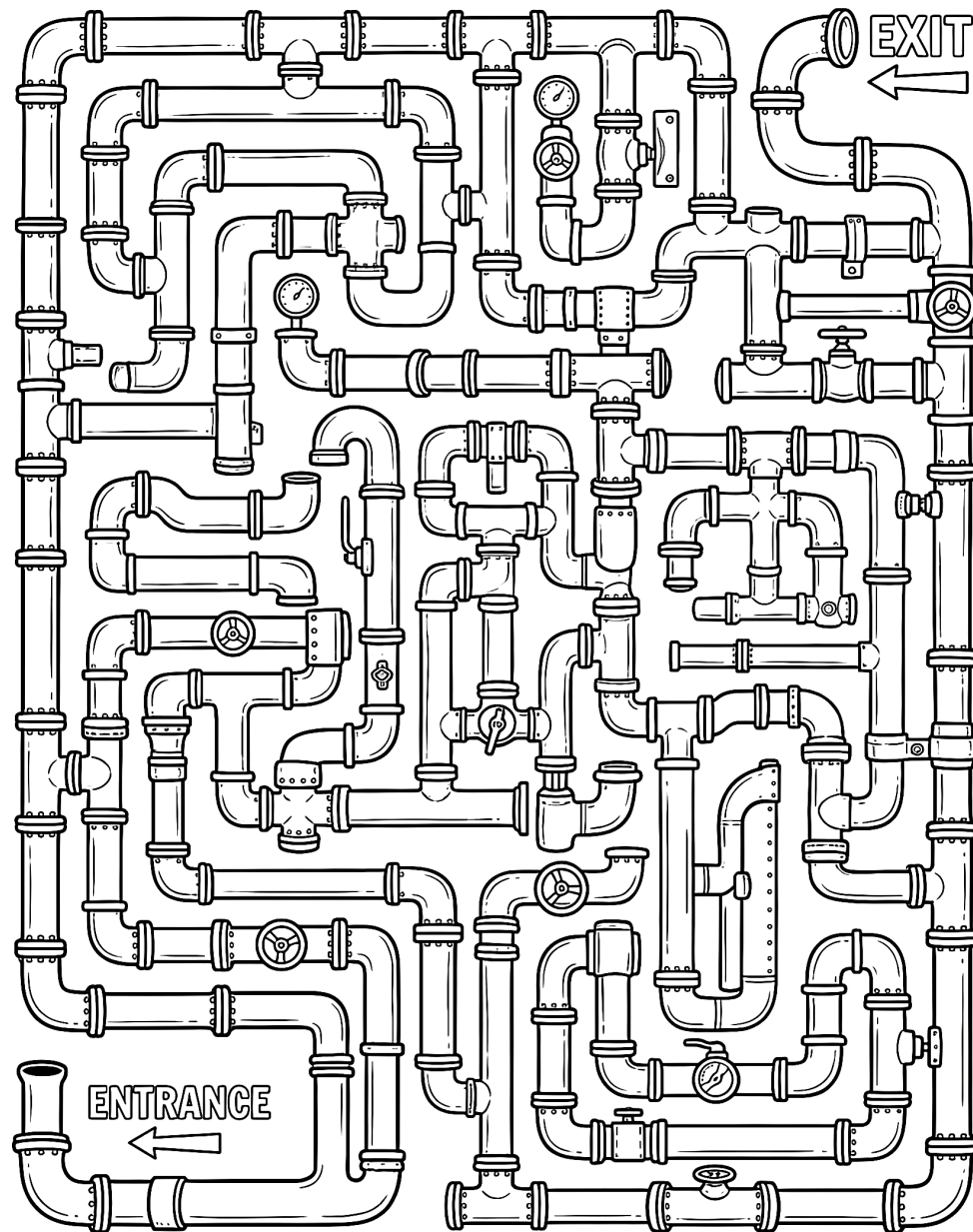


Lead exposure is more than just a household issue; it's a community issue that affects the health, safety, and future of families within our communities. While many of our homes, schools, and buildings carry the charm of history, they also carry older materials that can place our children at risk. When we recognize and address these risks, it's not about blame; it's about responsibility, awareness, and working together.

As a community, we have the power to protect our children, strengthen our neighborhoods, and demand safer housing, cleaner water, and healthier living environments. Understanding lead, knowing where it comes from, and spreading awareness make all of us part of the solution. The actions of one family can safeguard an entire block, and one informed neighbor can benefit the whole city.

Lead prevention is a shared effort. Together, we can build a stronger, healthier Orange for every child, household, and generation to follow.

— The HUUB



What Is Lead, and Why It Matters

Lead is a naturally occurring metal once commonly used in paint, pipes, gasoline, and many household products. It becomes dangerous when it enters our homes, water, soil, or bodies. Lead is a toxic substance that can harm the brain, nerves, and overall health. It is especially risky for young children, who absorb it more easily. There is no safe level of lead exposure.

Who Is Most at Risk: Young Children

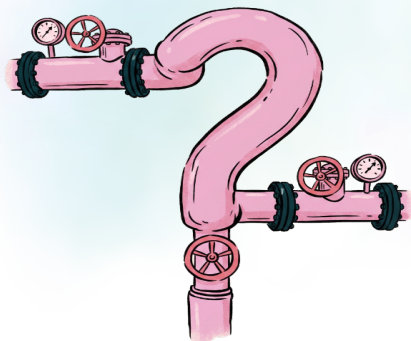
Young children absorb lead more easily than adults. Small amounts can affect their growing brains and nervous systems, interfering with early learning, behavior, and development.

Why Getting Tested Matters

Since lead exposure often has no visible symptoms, testing is the only reliable way to know if a child has been exposed. NJ State Law requires testing at age 1 and again at age 2, and for children ages 3–6 who have never been tested.

Action Step for Parents & Caregivers

Contact your pediatrician or healthcare provider to review your child's medical records and request a lead test at the next appointment.



Risk Factors in Orange



Risk-Factors In Our City

Orange is full of history — beautiful older homes, long-standing buildings, and pipes that have been here longer than some of us. With old homes come old materials and old safety standards. Many people lived unaware of lead dangers around them, and many still do.

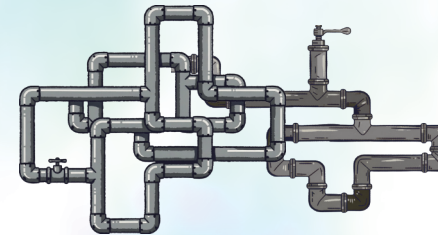
Orange has very old housing stock, with many buildings over 100 years old.

If your home was built before 1978, these risks may be present. Common sources include:

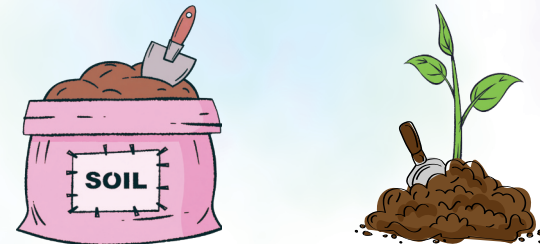
- **Paint** — which can peel, chip, or break down into lead dust



- **Pipes** — which can introduce lead into our drinking water

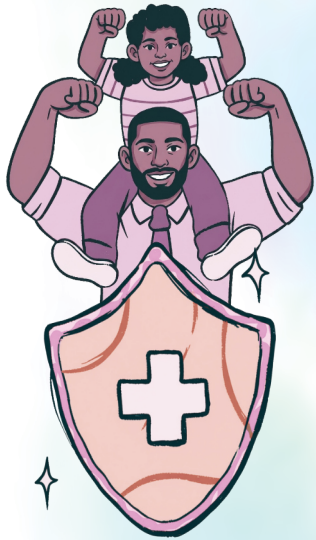


- **Soil** — which can carry lead from years of construction and outdoor maintenance



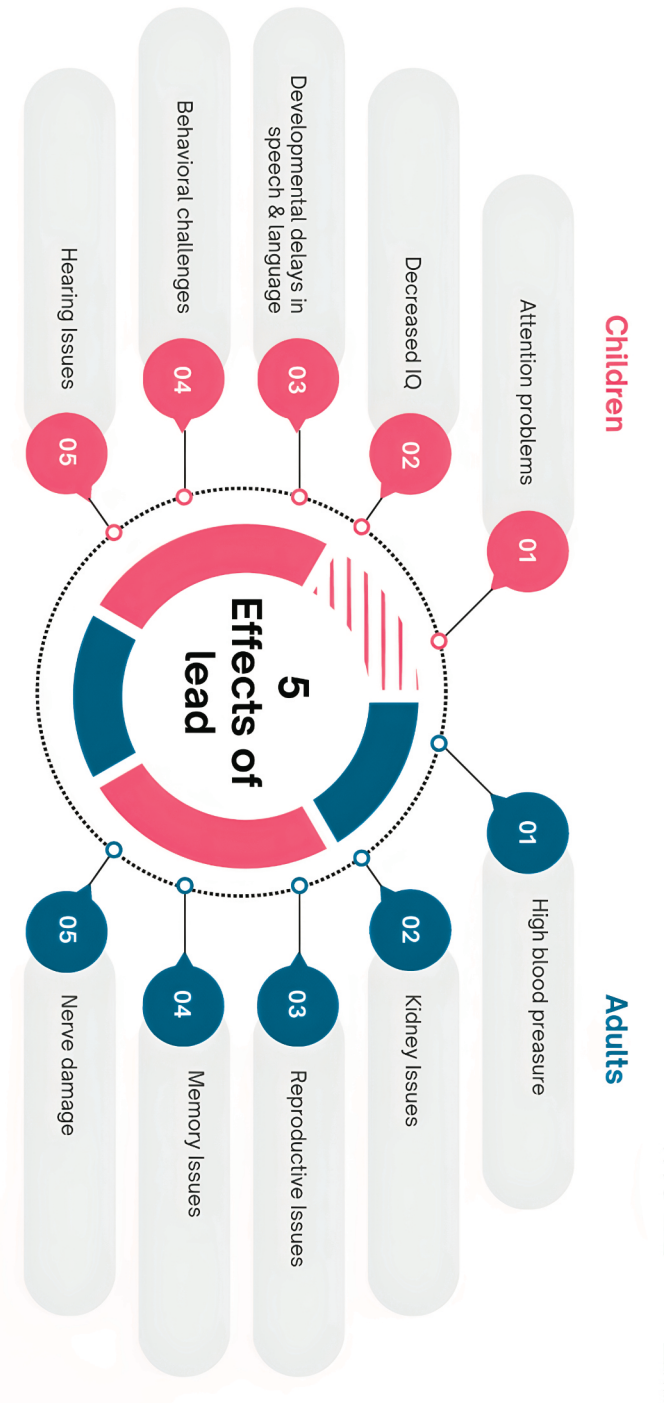
Protecting Your Child

Lead exposure can affect both children and adults, but lead poisoning is preventable. Understanding the risks allows you to take small and powerful steps to stay safe.



If your child is experiencing attention or learning challenges, speech delays, or growth concerns, it does not automatically mean lead is the cause. Lead testing can provide peace of mind. Early detection allows families and healthcare providers to act quickly.

With awareness, regular testing, and a few prevention habits, families can reduce the risk of lead exposure. Healthy homes and informed families are the best protection.



Protecting Your Home

Home

- Change air filters regularly
- Clean curtains regularly — they collect household dust
- Clean window wells — they trap the most lead dust
- Connect with local Lead Remediation & Assistance Programs (LRAP)



Water

- Run your tap for 2–3 minutes in the morning
- Use cold water only for cooking and drinking
- Use a certified filter (NSF/ANSI 53 or 58) if you have a lead service line
- Have your water tested regularly



Soil & Paint

- Keep children away from areas with peeling exterior paint
- Wash hands and feet after playing outside
- Cover bare soil with grass, mulch, or wood chips
- Do not scrape or sand peeling paint yourself
- Wet-clean floors and window surfaces regularly



Protecting Your Community

We have real power when we come together. Every time a parent asks a question, a neighbor shares this pamphlet, or a community member demands safer housing, Orange gets stronger.

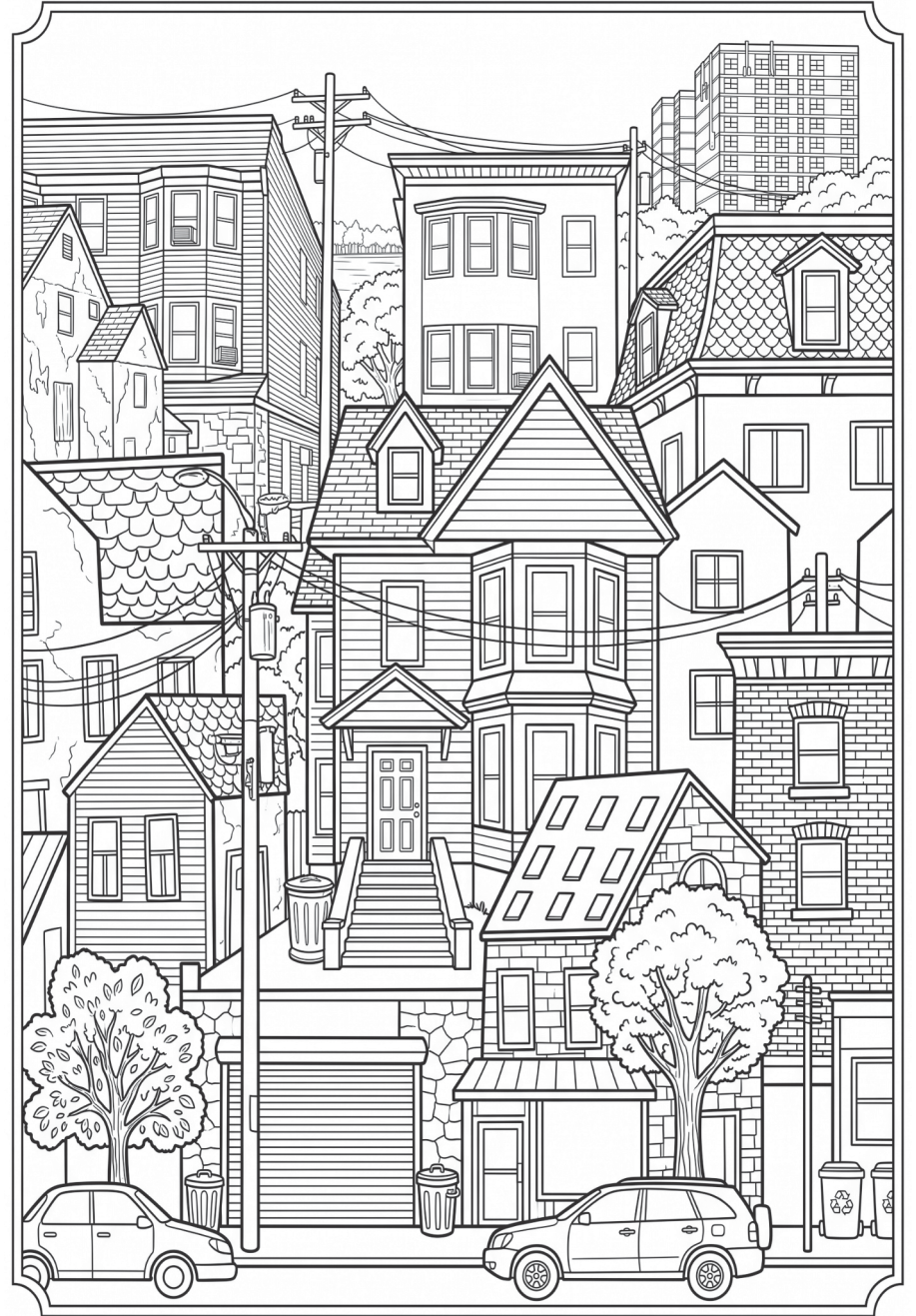
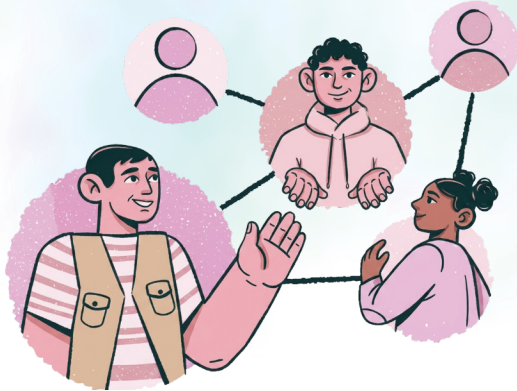
Connect with Organizations

- Local (Orange): The HUUB, Friends of Metcalf Park
- State-wide: Jersey Water Works, Lead Free NJ



Take Action

- Talk to neighbors about lead risks and protection steps
- Speak up at city council and school board meetings
- Ask landlords about lead-safe certifications
- Encourage neighbors to get their kids tested
- Advocate for free filters, test kits, and inspections
- Support clean water initiatives and infrastructure upgrades



Your Rights Under NJ Lead Laws

Renters

- Right to a lead inspection in rentals built before 1978
- Inspections every 3 years or during unit turnover
- Cannot be evicted for requesting an inspection

Homeowners

- May qualify for free lead remediation
- Right to hire a certified inspector



Water Safety

- Utility must notify you of any lead service line
- Right to request water testing

Families With Children

- Every child must be tested at ages 1 and 2
- Uninsured children: testing through local health dept.
- Elevated blood lead: family receives home inspection + case manager



Resources



The HUUB The HUUB is a community campus in Orange, NJ building a center for JOY, SOLIDARITY, and HUMAN RIGHTS. Our campus is home to several organizations and a venue for meetings, parties, rites of passage, life-long learning, gardening, and much more. We are a community hub for Lead Free NJ.

To get involved with our lead education and advocacy in Orange NJ please reach out to Lavon Boykins at: lavon@orangehuub.org | orangehuub.org



Friends of Metcalf Park

Friends of Metcalf Park are an environmental justice and park advocacy organization based in the Valley neighborhood of Orange.

Find them on social media
@friendsofmetcalfpark



HANDS Inc.

A local CDC and nonprofit in Orange who do lead paint testing and remediation.

Lead paint testing and remediation:
handsinc.org

If you are concerned about your child, contact City of Orange Health Department:

<https://orangenj.gov/227/Health-Division-of-Community-Services>
(973) 952-6105

If you are a landlord who needs lead testing, contact LEW at:

lewenvironmental.com/contact-us/
(908) 654-8068 | Toll Free: (800) 783-0567

If you are a tenant concerned about lead paint testing, call Orange Code Enforcement Linda Drummond: ldrummond@orangenj.gov | (973) 952-6066

If you are concerned about lead service line and your water, contact Orange Water Department at David Butcher, Water issues & Sewer Billing:

dbutcher@orangenj.gov | (973) 952-6105 | (973) 747-2906

East Orange Lead Program (children's screening & case management):

7 Glenwood Ave, Suite 420, East Orange, NJ 07017 | (973) 266-5489
<https://www.eastorange-nj.gov/179/Lead-Poisoning-Prevention-Program>

NJ Poison Control Center: (973) 339-702-1222 | (973) 339-0702
<https://www.njpies.org/lead/>

EPA National Lead Information Center: 1-800-424-LEAD (1-800-424-5323)
<https://www.eastorange-nj.gov/179/Lead-Poisoning-Prevention-Program>

NJ Dept. of Health Childhood Lead Program: clpp.fhs@doh.nj.gov
<https://www.nj.gov/health/childhood-lead/>

