

Glossary

This is a brief glossary of unusual terms used in this module. The definitions presented are for the purposes of the unit, and are not exhaustive. Some definitions are taken from "Lead in Your Home: A Parent's Guide" from the EPA. Source information is listed in the bibliography.

Abatement: A procedure that eliminates lead-based paint or soil hazards. The four types of abatement methods are removal, enclosure, encapsulation and replacement.

Acidity: A measure of the pH of the soil. pH units vary from 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral. Acids such as lemon juice have a low pH (<7) and bases, such as household ammonia, have a high pH (>7).

Acute: A condition of rapid onset and short, severe course. In lead poisoning, most acute cases are from massive occupational exposures to lead products.

Chelation: A medical drug treatment for lead poisoning. The most common drugs used include succimer and EDTA. The chelating agent (drug) draws the stored lead from sites in the body where it has been stored.

Chronic: Of long duration, continuing. Chronic exposure usually refers to exposure to an agent over a long time at low dose. Most cases of lead poisoning in the US are of this nature, often without symptoms.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.

Epidemiology: The branch of medicine that deals with the study of the causes, distribution, and control of disease in populations.

Lead-based paint: Any paint that contains lead equal to or greater than 1.0 milligram per square centimeter, or 0.5 percent lead by weight.

µg/dl: Microgram per deciliter. A microgram is one millionth of a gram. A deciliter is one-tenth of a liter. The units for measuring lead in the blood.

Neurological: Affecting the nervous system.

Pica: An abnormal craving for nonfood substances, such as dirt, paint or clay.

Population: A group of people sharing some characteristic, such as place of residence, age, or sex.

Remediation: The act of providing a remedy or solution. See **abatement**.

Risk Factor: A factor which increases one's chances of getting a particular disease. A risk factor does not necessarily have to be something that causes a disease the way smoking causes lung cancer. A risk factor can also be something purely associated with a disease, for example, low-socioeconomic status with lead poisoning.

Salinity: The salt content of soil. The higher the salt content the higher the salinity.

Succimer: The drug of choice for chelating children. Administered orally. Can be done on an outpatient basis.

TSP: Trisodium Phosphate. A solid-surface cleaner which effectively binds lead. Used for dust control in areas where there is a known lead hazard.