



World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | February 2025

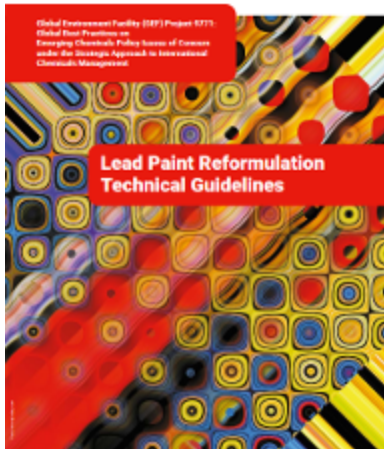


Introduction

Lead paint continues to pose a significant risk to public health around the world, with its use still prevalent in many countries. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Alliance) is working to help countries establish laws to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture, sale and import of paints containing lead. As of January 2024, 94 countries – comprising 48% of all countries – have legally binding controls to limit the production, import and/or sale of lead paints. For a map and database, you can visit [WHO's Global Health Observatory webpage on legally binding controls on lead paint](#).

The Alliance is pleased to present its February 2025 newsletter in which we share updates about the ongoing work to phase out lead paint worldwide, including resources to support national efforts, progress made during the 2024 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, updates on progress towards laws, and lead paint in the news.

New and Existing Tools



Support the successful phaseout of lead paint by sharing knowledge of how small-, medium-, and large-sized enterprises can reformulate lead paint, such as the [Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines](#).



Watch the [EPA/UNEP Webinar Recording on Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement](#), held on 22 Oct. 2024. The webinar provided an in-depth overview of the best practices for compliance and enforcement of lead paint laws as captured in the [UNEP Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance](#).



[level surveys](#), a powerful tool in understanding the extent and severity of lead toxicity in a country.

Watch two insightful webinars from the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future's webinar series, one held on 21 Oct. 2024, which provided an [understanding sources of lead exposure](#) and another held on 25 Nov. 2024, focused on [carrying out national blood lead](#)

2024 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Results



The Alliance organized its 12th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) from 20 to 26 October, 2024. ILPPW 2024 was a successful global campaign, with 104 events held in 52 countries. The week of action theme, “Bright futures begin lead-free,” served to remind governments, civil society organizations, health partners, industry and others of the unacceptable risks of lead exposure and the need for action to protect children’s health. The ILPPW aimed to support individuals, civil society organisations, industry and governments in eliminating lead paint by offering a range of multimedia, multilingual campaign materials. Each year, ILPPW plays a crucial role in raising global awareness about the dangers of lead exposure and ensuring bright futures for all children.



Recent Events

On 4 Feb. 2025, IPEN and the Geneva Environment Network co-organized [a webinar examining the global trade in lead chromates](#), a toxic ingredient of lead paint still exported to many countries. Experts highlighted findings from an [IPEN report](#) revealing how countries that have banned lead paint continue to allow the export of lead chromates, with receiving nations having limited capacity to monitor or control imports. The webinar considered the option of listing lead chromates under the Rotterdam Convention’s Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure which IPEN advocates as a way to strengthen enforcement of lead paint bans and promote global action.

On 11 Dec. 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and ASTM International co-hosted a webinar introducing a proposed new ASTM standard on the use of hand-held instruments for the real-time determination of low levels of lead in newly manufactured paint. This standard will help advance efforts to encourage the use of international standards as well as reduction of lead sources and exposure, such as lead paint.

On 5 Dec. 2024, the Lead Exposure Elimination Project hosted a Lead in Paint Community of Practice, focused on the topic of “*Why should we prioritise eliminating lead paint in 2025?*” The event was well attended and featured remarks from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Consumers’ Association of Penang, Brazilian Paint Manufacturers Association, and the University of Nairobi. Discussion centered on the ongoing challenges in eliminating lead paint and strategies to accelerate progress in 2025 and beyond.

On 20 Nov. 2024, UNEP and the U.S. EPA hosted a consultation on lead sources and management for African French-speaking countries to explore the feasibility of a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach for low- and middle- income country national governments to manage sources of lead exposure. The discussion included perspectives from Senegal, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, the Economic Community of West African States, and a number of international partners. A [recording and consultation report](#) from this event are available online, as are materials from a previous consultation held for English-speaking countries.

On 5 Nov. 2024, an Inter-Sectoral Expert Webinar on Lead Pollution and Exposure brought together G20 representatives and technical experts from the environment, health and development sectors to discuss reducing lead pollution in G20 and low- and middle-income countries. The webinar highlighted lead exposure as a significant global health risk and the importance of multi-sectoral partnerships in addressing the issue. A [webinar report](#) summarizing the discussions, goals and [presentations](#) are available for further reference.

On 23 Sept. 2024 at the 79th UN General Assembly, UNICEF launched the [Partnership for a Lead-Free Future](#) to unite governments, organisations and stakeholders in a concerted effort to end childhood lead poisoning by 2040 and create a lead-free future for every child.



Upcoming Events

From 27–28 February 2025, the [Alliance Advisory Council meeting](#) will convene to review and discuss progress on addressing Lead in Paint as an issue of concern under the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. The meeting will provide an opportunity to examine existing regulations worldwide, share lessons learned, and highlight opportunities for further progress.



On 27 March 2025, LEEP will host a Lead in Paint Community of Practice, with the focus of “Reformulation: Accelerating the Transition to Lead-Free Paints.” Join the discussion with other practitioners working towards reformulation of lead paint. [Register here](#).

In June 2025 (date TBD), in collaboration with US EPA, UNEP will conduct a Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regional webinar on compliance and enforcement issues related to lead paint laws. The webinar will provide an opportunity for governments and paint industry stakeholders in LAC to learn about promoting effective enforcement and compliance with lead paint laws and will provide a forum for participants to ask questions from technical experts and learn from each other through sharing experiences on enforcement and compliance and LAC country case studies.



Progress Towards Laws

BOLIVIA From 27–28 November 2024, government representatives from the Technical Committee, led by PRONACOPS—an agency of the Ministry of Environment—held the first official workshop and also prepared a draft regulation for lead in paint.

BURUNDI On 24 November, 2024, The Ministry of Commerce [issued a communiqué](#) announcing its intention to adopt the East African Community Standards on lead in paint as mandatory.

CAMBODIA: Since December 2024, UNEP is supporting national efforts to regulate lead in paint, conducting a market survey on the presence of lead in selected products (e.g., paints, toys, and cookware) and raising awareness of public consumers on lead impacts on health and the environment, with funding from Japan’s Ministry of Environment.

CAMEROON As of December 2024, the Rotterdam Convention’s updated [database](#) of recently submitted Notifications includes Cameroon’s Lead Chromate Notifications of Final Regulatory Action.

CHINA On 4 December 2024, the National Technical Committee of Paint and Pigment for Standardization in China, with approval by the People’s Republic of China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, responded to the Lead Paint Alliance comments on [two draft national standards](#) on the “Limits of Hazardous Substances in Coatings Part 1: Architectural Coatings” and the “Limits of Hazardous Substances in Coatings Part 2: Industrial Coatings.” Both standards are currently undergoing review by the committee.

EUROPEAN UNION UNEP has launched a European Commission (EC)–funded project,

“Addressing Lead and Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals,” under a broader One UNEP project titled “Chemicals, Environment and Health: Accelerating transition towards a toxic free planet” aiming to accelerate transition towards toxic free planet by minimizing the risks of hazardous chemicals and pollution on the environment and health. The EC-funded project aims to support UNEP-led efforts to inform and spearhead global, regional, and national efforts to prevent or reduce the environmental and health risks and impacts from exposure to EDCs and lead (Pb), in the broader context of strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste.

LIBERIA On 8th January, the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, in collaboration with the National Public Health Institution of Liberia, [signed the Lead Paint Regulations](#). The regulation will limit lead levels in paint in Liberia to 90 ppm, aligning with ECOWAS standards, and aims to eliminate the production, sale, and importation of lead-based paints in Liberia within three years. This progress follows a regulation validation workshop supported by LEEP.

MOROCCO In August 2024, in conjunction with IPEN’s campaign to list lead chromates under the Rotterdam Convention, the Government of Morocco, with support from IPEN and the *Association Marocaine Santé, Environnement et Toxicovigilance*, submitted a notification to list lead chromates as hazardous chemicals. As of December 2024, Morocco’s Lead Chromate Notification was included in the Convention’s [PIC Circular No. 60](#). During the 12th ILPPW, IPEN released the report “[Exporting Lead Poisoning: The Toxic Trade in Lead Chromates](#),” which highlights how countries ban lead chromates domestically but continue exporting them, putting global health at risk.

NIGER On 23 November, 2024, the Government of Niger, with support from LEEP, [drafted a provisional decree](#) on lead in paint.



In the News: Lead Paint and Other Sources of Lead Exposure

These articles do not necessarily reflect the views or work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Information and Action to Address Health Effects of Lead Exposure

[Ancient Romans breathed in enough lead to lower their IQs, study finds; did that toxin contribute to the Empire’s fall?](#)

Smithsonian Magazine, 7 Jan. 2025

[Lead in gasoline tied to over 150 million excess cases of mental health disorders, study suggests](#)

NBC News, 5 Dec. 2024

[Lead exposure necessary to address ‘if we want to prevent chronic disease’](#)

Healio, 8 Nov. 2024

[Lead exposure still poses health risks for millions worldwide, study finds](#)

New Medical Life Sciences, 4 Nov. 2024

[Lead poisoning costs world’s children 765 million IQ points a year: Study](#)

The Hill, 30 Oct. 2024

[Video] [Why lead poisoning is a danger to your child’s health](#)

UNICEF, 19 Oct. 2024

[Global call to action on lead poisoning prevention](#)

WHO, 18 Oct. 2024

[World Coatings Council supports WHO International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action](#)

Coatings World, 18 Oct. 2024

[Countries with lead paint bans continue to export key lead paint ingredient, in a double-standard that puts children and families at risk globally](#)

IPEN, 17 Oct. 2024

[Sickle cell disease may play role in childhood lead poisoning cases](#)

HCP Live, 2 Oct. 2024

[Opinion: We can protect millions of kids from a global killer—without billions of dollars](#)

The Washington Post, 22 Sept. 2024

Lead in Consumer Products

[FDA disappoints child advocates with its new limit on lead in baby food](#)

CNN Health, 6 Jan. 2025

[Lead in cinnamon: Where do things stand, 1 year after a scary recall?](#)

NPR, 25 Oct. 2024

[Many everyday items are filled with toxic lead. Here is how to change that.](#)

UNEP, 24 Oct. 2024

AFRICA

[In Cameroon, a ban on lead paint is working, but more enforcement is needed to protect children and families](#)

Cameroon, 24 Oct. 2024

[Video] [12th Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Week](#)

Congo, 2 Nov. 2024

[Lead poisoning silently stunting children's brain development in Ethiopia: Study](#)

Ethiopia, 7 Dec. 2024

[Video] [They know that there are diseases caused by lead that cannot be cured](#)

Ethiopia, 16 Nov. 2024

[Environmental campaigners call for lead paint ban in Gambia](#)

Gambia, 25 Oct. 2024

[Protecting generations: International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week raises alarm](#)

Ghana, 25 Oct. 2024

[Ashanti: UNICEF supports training of healthcare workers on prevention of lead poisoning](#)

Ghana, 23 Oct. 2024

[Video] [Lead poisoning prevention week marked, Kenya grappling with lead contamination](#)

Kenya, 26 Oct. 2024

[How high lead exposure is putting many lives in Kenya at risk](#)

Kenya, 24 Oct. 2024

[Video] [Alarm as 3 million children in Kenya at risk of lead poisoning](#)

Kenya, 24 Oct. 2024

[For the sake of children, step up efforts to produce lead-free paints](#)

Kenya, 23 Oct. 2024

[EPA and NPHIL sign lead paint regulations](#)

Liberia, 8 Jan. 2025

[Keeping lead-associated risks at bay](#)

Malawi, 26 Sept. 2024

[Lead poisoning: a silent danger](#)

Morocco, 24 Oct. 2024

[Lead poisoning: the phenomenon persists despite regulations](#)

Morocco, 23 Oct. 2024

[CAP Plc supports International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2024: Reaffirms commitment to producing safe, high quality paint solutions](#)

Nigeria, 25 Oct. 2024

[Drinking lead-contaminated water may cause kidney failure, physicians warn](#)

Nigeria, 22 Oct. 2024

[UNGA 79: Nigeria joins global campaign against lead poisoning](#)

Nigeria, 27 Sept. 2024

[South Africans exposed to high levels of lead](#)

South Africa, 29 Oct. 2024

[South Africa regulates lead in paint and coating materials](#)

South Africa, 23 Sept. 2024

[GCLA embarks on drive to eliminate lead in paint](#)

Tanzania, 28 Oct. 2024

[Activists urge more action on lead paint poisoning exposure](#)

Tanzania, 20 Oct. 2024

[Video] [Lead-based paint remains a public health concern](#)

Tanzania, 17 Oct. 2024

[Tunisia: Beware...lethal lead in your home without your knowledge](#)

Tunisia, 24 Sept. 2024

ASIA

[Lead exposure: Steep price that children pay](#)

Bangladesh, 28 Oct. 2024

[Holistic approach needed against lead pollution: Experts](#)

Bangladesh, 22 Oct. 2024

[Ban on products having lead demanded](#)

Bangladesh, 22 Oct. 2024

[From water to toys: the risk of lead poisoning that you may ignore](#)

China, 25 Oct. 2024

[India's lead crisis: 294 million children affected, pregnant women at high risk](#)

India, 16 Dec. 2024

[Toxic levels of lead found in turmeric sold in India, Nepal, Pakistan](#)

India, 12 Nov. 2024

[A call to secure a lead-free future for children](#)

India, 19 Oct. 2024

[Launching an initiative to paint public buildings with lead-free paint in the Municipality of Yarmouk](#)

Jordan, 12 Oct. 2024

[CAP urged the government to strictly enforce legislation on lead; some samples of cosmetics contain more than 10 thousand times of lead](#)

Malaysia, 22 Oct. 2024

[The silent danger of lead: One in three urban Nepali children have dangerously high blood lead levels](#)

Nepal, 25 Oct. 2024

[International lead poisoning awareness week 2024 kicks off in Nepal](#)

Nepal, 21 Oct. 2024

[45 percent of paints against the standard](#)

Nepal, 20 Oct. 2024

[EcoWaste Coalition uncovers toxic lead in more painted tumblers](#)

Philippines, 5 Jan. 2025

[Toxic watchdog warns against buying non-compliant Christmas lights and decorations that may contain toxic lead](#)

Philippines, 25 Oct. 2024

[Video] [Uncovering the hazards of lead](#)

Philippines, 22 Oct. 2024

[Report: Countries with lead paint bans continue to export lead chromates](#)

Philippines, 21 Oct. 2024

[Lead safe paint advocates ramp up collaboration vs. lead-containing paints](#)

Philippines, 18 Oct. 2024

[Made in the Philippines paint obtains Lead Safe Paint® certification](#)

Philippines, 14 Oct. 2024

[EcoWaste Coalition deplores Chinese paint imports with high lead content in violation of the country's lead paint ban](#)

Philippines, 22 Sept. 2024

EUROPE

[Danger hidden in paint: Moldova marks International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#)

Moldova, 22 Oct. 2024

NORTH AMERICA

[Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is here!](#)

Jamaica, 24 Oct. 2024

[Audio] [Lead poisoning](#)

Jamaica, 19 Oct. 2024

[Study reveals lead in paint on children's playgrounds in Torreón parks](#)

Mexico, 25 Oct. 2024

[Biden administration finalizes 'zero tolerance' lead paint dust standard](#)

USA, 24 Oct. 2024

[US private equity invests in chemical industry tied to global lead poisoning, worrying health experts](#)

USA, 25 Sept. 2024

[Video] [Kid garden sets recalled for lead paint risk](#)

USA, 17 Sept. 2024

SOUTH AMERICA

[Paint Study Results Workshop and Press Release](#)

Peru, 3 Dec. 2024

[Warning of presence of lead in Halloween masks](#)

Peru, 26 Oct. 2024

OCEANIA

[Audio] [Our changing world—lead bullets and their risk to human health](#)

New Zealand, 23 Oct. 2024

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