

Lead Solder Factsheet



Lead has adverse effects on almost every organ and system in the body. Exposure to excessive levels has been linked to nervous system complications, brain damage, high blood pressure, digestive problems and both learning and behavioral disorders in adults and children.

Lead solder can still be found in older plumbing and electronic circuit boards

You can help prevent lead exposure and maintain a safe work environment by:

- Always use lead-free solder on supply lines used for drinking water.
- Using a less-hazardous solder material whenever possible. There are many safe, reliable, nontoxic, and cost-effective substitute alloys available for lead-bearing solders.
- Solder in a fume hood or well-ventilated area.
- Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.
- Manage discarded lead solder, dross and rags as hazardous waste. Use an orange waste tag and write "Lead Solder Waste" in step 4. Waste lead solder must be disposed of by Environmental Health and Safety. Complete a [waste removal request](#).
- Keep waste solder containers closed when not adding or removing material.



For more information concerning the proper management and disposal of lead solder waste, please contact Iowa State University Environmental Health and Safety at (515) 294-5359 or via email at ehsinfo@iastate.edu.