

Lead Alert for Anglers



Tennessee Department
of Health

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SP 605-L

➤ **Why is lead poisoning an issue for anglers?**

People who fish for a living or as a hobby can be exposed to lead sinkers. You should know that exposure to lead can affect your health. If the lead in sinkers enters your blood stream, it can pass through your body and damage your brain, kidneys, other organs and red blood cells.

➤ **What else do I need to know about lead poisoning and fishing?**

Lead poisoning can be prevented. Those who are at highest risk of developing lead poisoning are young children under the age of 6. Your family doctor or



local health department can do a blood test to determine if you or your child has elevated levels of lead in your blood. If you think you have been exposed to lead sinkers, let your doctor know immediately.

➤ **How can I prevent unnecessary exposure to lead sinkers?**

Follow these tips to protect yourself and others when fishing with lead sinkers:

- Do not put lead sinkers in your mouth.
- Do not close sinkers by biting into them.
- Do not let toddlers and young children play with or handle lead sinkers.
- Do not melt lead inside your home.

Always wash your hands with soap and warm water after you handle lead sinkers and before you eat!



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