

Halstead Bead Inc. Lead Information Sheet

How does lead get into your body?

Lead is only transferable through inhalation and ingestion. You cannot absorb lead through your skin. However, it is important to wash your hands after handling products with hazardous levels of lead in order to avoid transferring lead particles on your hands to your mouth or someone else's mouth. This is particularly important around young children who may put objects in their mouths. Lead is present in many household objects besides crystal & pewter items. Plumbing pipes, dirt/soil, and many other common objects contain lead.

What are the dangers of lead poisoning?

Lead poisoning is particularly dangerous for pregnant women and children because it is proven to cause neurological damage and developmental disorders when blood toxicity reaches hazardous levels. Lead can also cause illness in adults when exposure is severe. Most common adult over-exposure occurs in careers involving soldering, welding, construction, mining or industries with high chemical exposure. These are typical jobs that expose individuals to high levels of airborne lead. Children are more susceptible to damage from common household objects containing lead such as paint, soil, some toys, etc. because they put unsafe objects in their mouths.

See <http://www.epa.gov/lead/leadinfo.htm> for more detailed information on lead hazards.

Do Halstead Bead pewter products contain hazardous amounts of lead?

NO! Our domestic pewter items with the "P" prefix are lead-free. That means they contain less than 1/20% lead and are completely safe. We have used OSHA approved lead testing to guarantee that these products do not contain hazardous levels of transferable lead, even underneath the rhodium plating on the surface. That means that these products do not present any immediate danger to adults or children. However, we still recommend keeping products containing ANY lead away from children because it is our policy to always meet or exceed health and disclosure regulation standards.

What about pewter I buy from other vendors, is it safe?

Many pewter jewelry components are not safe, especially those imported from foreign countries that do not have any lead regulation. Moreover, every level of sale is responsible for verifying lead content, and labeling if contents are at hazardous levels. We recommend testing your pewter items to verify that they are safe. See below for information on ordering testing kits.

Does Swarovski brand crystal contain lead?

Yes. Swarovski crystal beads and components are leaded crystal. These products should not be used for children's jewelry. Please take care to wash your hands after handling crystals and before you are in contact with small children or are involved in food preparation. Please see the Swarovski section of our website for complete legal statements on disclosure requirements for resellers in the State of California. This statement was released for the first time on April 28, 2006.

Do glass beads contain lead?

Many glass beads contain lead, particularly cut glass or fire polished glass. Lead is what makes these items brilliantly reflective. Lead free glass is generally less sparkly. It is best to assume that any faceted glass product contains at least some lead content.

What is California Proposition 1681? Does it affect me if I am not in California?

Effective September 1, 2007, no children's jewelry can be retailed in the state of California unless the piece meets the lead-free standards described in the bill. Standards are specified for metal and non-metal components.

Retail sales within the state and from out of state internet sites are prohibited and punishable by fines and civil penalties. You do not have to operate your business in the state of California to be affected by this legislation. Anyone selling to California consumers is subject to the new law.

Bill 1681 can be found on the California State Assembly website. To view the bill, visit the following link: <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset2text.htm>

Then search for the bill by selecting Session: (2005-2006) and Bill Number: 1681.

If you believe your business will be directly affected by this bill, we recommend that you seek legal counsel. This information sheet is for informative purposes only and should not be construed as any form of legal expertise or advice.

Performing your own lead tests

We use and recommend Hybrivet Systems Inc., at www.leadcheck.com for your lead testing needs. This OSHA approved testing kit manufacturer offers an 8 swab test kit for \$18.45 (as of September, 2003). The test swabs can be used on any surface to determine whether hazardous levels of lead are transferable through the item. Several other companies manufacture similar test kits for home or industrial testing. You can find more information on lead hazards and lead testing in the workplace at OSHA's website, <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/lead/index.html>.