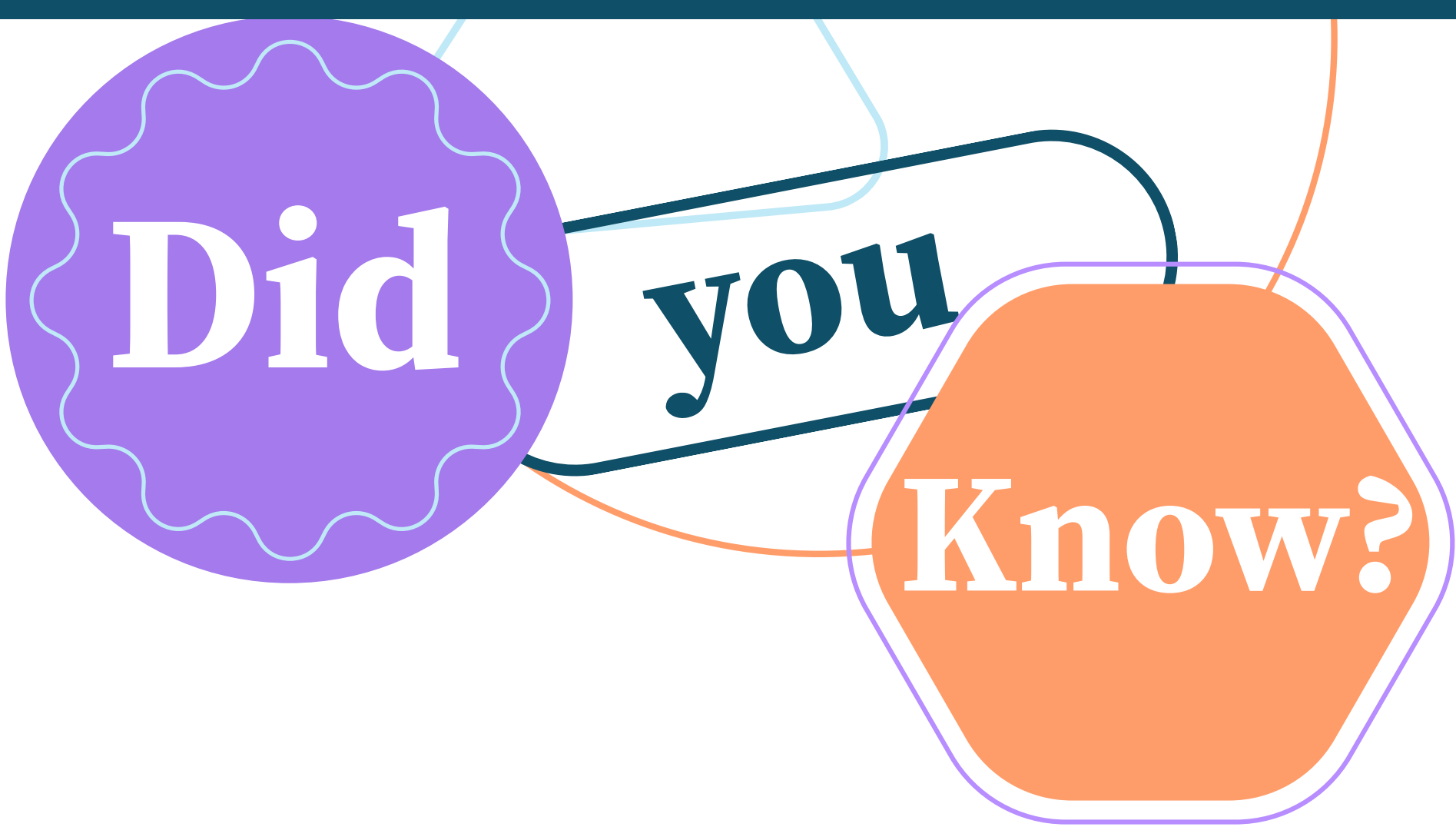


# Lead free is the way to be



**Georgia Legislation lowered the threshold for confirmed elevated blood lead level from 20 to 3.5 micrograms of lead per deciliter.**



## Why were the thresholds lowered?

The level is now consistent with guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



## What is lead poisoning and who is most at risk?

Lead poisoning is a buildup of lead in the body, usually over months or years. Lead can be harmful to anyone. However, children aged 6 and below are more susceptible to lead poisoning. Lead quickly enters the blood and can harm a child's health.



## How do I know if my child is at risk?

Homes built in the U.S. before 1978 are likely to have some lead based paint. When the paint peels and cracks, it makes lead paint chips and dust. Any surface covered with lead-based paint where the paint may wear by rubbing or friction is likely to cause lead dust including windows, doors, floors, porches, stairways, and cabinets.



## What are the concerns for exposure to lead?

Lead can damage the brain and nervous system. This damage can cause slowed growth and development, hearing, speech, learning, and behavior problems. These issues can cause lower IQ's, decreased ability to pay attention & underperformance in schools.



## How does a child contract lead poisoning?

Children can be exposed to lead if they chew on surfaces coated with lead-based paint such as windowsills and door edges. They can also be exposed if they eat flaking paint chips or eat or breathe in lead dust.



## How do I know if my child has lead poisoning?

If you suspect your child has lead poisoning, speak to your healthcare professional to get your child tested. Based on your child's blood lead test results, healthcare providers can recommend follow-up actions and care. DPH strongly urges parents to have their children tested for lead.

