

Narrator: It is now 2007, the government is building Kai Ching Estate at the old airport to accommodate Hong Kong's growing population. Construction workers are now busy with welding water pipes.

Peter: Tommy, be quick! I promised the contractor to finish all the pipeline welding today! I will hold the pipes and you weld them together

Tommy: Yes, boss! But what kind of material should I use to join the pipes together? (Pointing at the cardboard hung from 1/F.)

Peter: Lead, of course! It can be cut to any shape and it flexes well with the metal without cracking. And more importantly, lead is waterproof!

Narrator: After 8 years, Chan's family moved to Kai Ching Estate, they gave birth to a baby. They are now listening to a radio programme.

DJ: After a two-week check-up, the government discovered that the water supply in Kai Ching Estate is contaminated by lead. Now the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene is holding a press conference ...

Mr. Chan: Oh my goodness, why was the water contaminated? Do we have health problem?

Mrs. Chan: I am worried that my son will suffer from illnesses? What can we do now?

Narrator: Suddenly, Professor Li and Professor Leung appeared in front of Chan's family and answered their questions.

Professor Li: Don't worry, I will answer your questions. Since the water pipes are joined together by lead, there is a chance that lead dissolves into the water when the water becomes hot. Also, some of the poor quality water taps may also pollute the water.

Mr. Chan: It sounds terrible. Will the lead threaten our lives if we obtain too much?

Professor Leung: Lead is hazardous to our health, it will kill you directly if you obtain high concentration of lead. Also, if you continuously have lead inside your body, it will cause a wide range of effects, including anaemia, high blood pressure and impaired renal function.

Professor Li :High blood lead level in children will contribute to learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and mental retardation.

Mrs. Chan: Lead is such a dangerous substance. If I have already drunk water with lead, how can I remove it from my body?

Professor Li: I'm sorry to hear that. Unfortunately, there are no available ways to remove lead from our bodies quickly. However, lead can be removed by excretion. For instance, doing regular exercises and having a balanced diet can help to remove lead in blood.

Mrs. Chan: How can I know whether I am contaminated by lead?

Professor Leung: You can conduct a blood test, which is the most accurate and reliable method to screen the amount of lead that you have obtained. Now the government has provided the test service for people in Kai Ching Estate together with health evaluation and follow-up.

Mrs. Chan: How can we filter lead from tap water?

Professor Li: You can install the water filters which can remove lead, it can reduce the lead level in water. In fact, you shouldn't use hot-water tap for cooking and drinking, this will increase the amount of lead you get from the pipe materials.

Mr. Chan: Let's go to the hospital to have a medical check-up now, and then we should buy a water filter to protect our health.

Professor Li: It is more important to have a healthy lifestyle. Some researchers suggest that having a balanced diet and doing regular exercise can reduce the chance of having lead in our blood.

Mrs. Chan: Yes, you are right. From now on, we should change our daily life and stay healthy.