LEAD PAINT:

IS IT IN YOUR SCHOOL, APARTMENT OR FACILITY?

Many contractors and maintenance workers who have been on the job for years believe they know all about the dangers of and the precautions necessary for working with lead paint. Others think lead paint poisoning simply went away years ago. It didn't.

That's why you need to know the facts about lead paint, and how disturbing it poses serious health risks to the people in your building, especially children.

There are requirements in place to protect children from these dangers. If your pre-1978 apartment, child-care facility, hospital or suite-style hotel is being renovated, repaired or painted, this pamphlet is for you. In it, you'll learn about the dangers of lead paint, how to hire a Lead-Safe Certified contractor, and how to make sure your own maintenance staff is doing the right thing.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LEAD PAINT POISONING.

Lead paint is an invisible danger. Here are some facts about lead paint that everyone should know:

- Even small levels of exposure to lead paint can harm both children and adults.
- Hundreds of thousands of kids are affected by lead paint with some level of irreversible damage, such as lower intelligence, learning disabilities and behavioral issues.
- New cases of childhood lead paint poisoning are diagnosed every year. Many more go unreported.
- Recent research shows that new cases can be directly linked to renovations where the work environment was inadequately cleaned and contained.
- Adults exposed to lead paint can suffer from high blood pressure, headaches, dizziness, diminished motor skills, fatigue and memory loss.
- It's not just lead paint chips that poison. Contamination can be caused by only a little bit of lead dust that is easily inhaled or ingested.
- Once poisoned, effects may be for life.

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

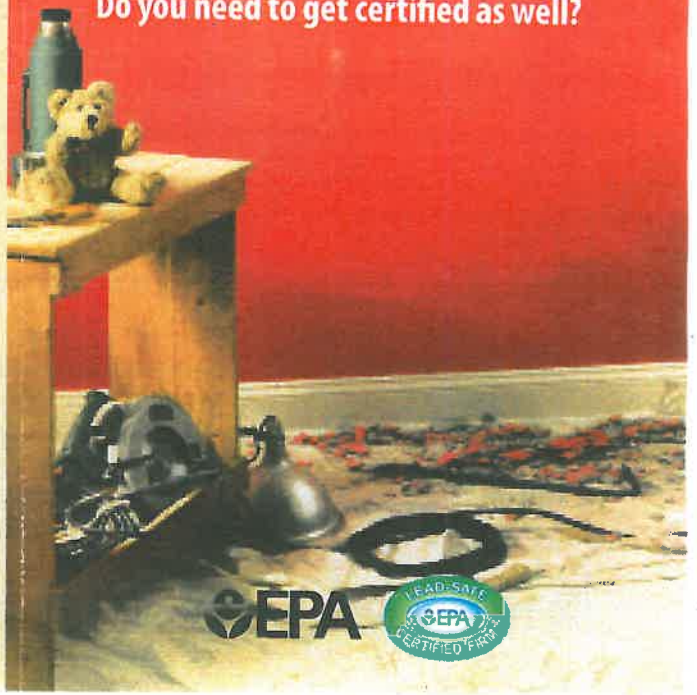
To learn more, visit epa.gov/getleadsafe or call 800-424-LEAD

To report a violation, visit epa.gov/tips

IF YOU'RE NOT LEAD-SAFE CERTIFIED, DISTURBING JUST SIX SQUARE FEET COULD COST YOU BIG TIME

Building Managers: Your contractor must be Lead-Safe Certified.

Do you need to get certified as well?



EPA LEAD-SAFE EPA CERTIFIED FIRM

WHERE DOES THE LEAD DANGER COME FROM TODAY?

In earlier decades, the fear of children eating lead paint chips was the main concern when it came to poisoning. But since then, research has shown that the most common way to get lead in the body is from inhaling or ingesting microscopic dust.

Day-to-day wear, as well as common renovation and repair activities, like sanding, cutting and demolition, can create hazardous lead dust and chips. Proper work practices can help protect the people in your building, especially children, from this dust.

Even for small jobs, the key is to use lead-safe work practices such as containing dust inside the work area, using dust-minimizing work methods and conducting a careful cleanup. It also means keeping people out of the work area. Most importantly, it means making sure that anyone who does work in your building is Lead-Safe Certified.

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR?

A responsible property manager, landlord or contracting official will be sure to hire only contractors who are Lead-Safe Certified to work in a building built prior to 1978.

Here are a few helpful tips:

- Verify that a contractor is certified by checking the EPA website at **epa.gov/getleadsafe** or by calling **1-800-424-LEAD**. You can also ask to see a copy of the contractor's Lead-Safe RRP firm certification.
- Ask if the contractor is trained to perform lead-safe work practices and ask to see a copy of their EPA training certificate.
- Make sure your contractor can explain clearly the details of the job and how the firm will minimize lead hazards during the work process.
- Ask what lead-safe methods will be used to set up and perform the job in your school, apartment or facility.
- Always make sure the contract is clear about how the work will be set up, performed and cleaned.

DOES MY STAFF HAVE TO BE LEAD-SAFE CERTIFIED?

Federal law requires that if you or someone on your staff is performing the work (including routine maintenance that disturbs paint), your organization must be Lead-Safe Certified as a firm and your staff must be trained in lead-safe work practices. If not, you could face tens of thousands of dollars in fines. Plus, you put the health of yourself, your workers, and your customers at risk, which could result in lawsuits. These work practices include:

- Containing the work area.
- Avoiding renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.
- Cleaning up thoroughly.

BECOMING LEAD-SAFE CERTIFIED.

1. Individuals renovators must be certified. Get certified by attending a one-day Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule course. The price for this course is set by private trainers accredited by the EPA. To find an accredited trainer near you, visit **epa.gov/getleadsafe or call 1-800-424-LEAD.**

2. Your firm also must be certified. Apply for certification by completing and submitting an application and fee.

3. Visit our website epa.gov/getleadsafe to find a training course, download the application and get more information.

LEAD-SAFE EPA CERTIFIED FIRM

EPA regulations now mandate that any contractor or maintenance staff, from plumbers to electricians to painters, who disturbs more than six square feet of lead paint or replaces windows while working in a pre-1978 apartment, school or facility, must now be Lead-Safe Certified and trained in lead-safe work practices. If not, you could face tens of thousands of dollars in fines.