



DISTURBING LEAD-BASED PAINT IN RENOVATION, REPAIR AND PAINTING

On April 22, 2008, EPA issued a rule requiring the use of “Lead-Safe Practices” and other actions aimed at preventing lead poisoning. Under the rule, beginning in April 2010, Contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint** in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.

The rule does not apply to minor maintenance or repair activities where less than six square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed in a room or where less than 20 square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed on the exterior. Window replacement is not minor maintenance or repair.

Contractors performing work that disturbs lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must:

- Be EPA certified, and
- Follow specific lead-safe practices to prevent lead contamination.

Lead-Safe Practices:

- When possible, do not disturb lead-containing surfaces.
- Relocate tenants if necessary.
- Enclose work area to contain paint chips and dust.
- Use minimum disturbance preparation methods (Wet scraping instead of dry scraping. No burning or torching of paint).
- Use personal protective equipment such as HEPA filter masks.
- Clean up paint chips and wet mop settled dust regularly.
- Wash and change clothes before going home.
- Wash hands before eating.

For the complete EPA document go to <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>

****Lead hazard levels to use as a reference:**

- DHS define the regulatory level for **lead-based paint** is ≥ 5000 mg/kg.
- EPA defines that a lead hazard exists when **lead contaminated dust** is ≥ 40 ug/ft² for interior floors, 250 ug/ft² for interior horizontal surfaces and 400 ug/ft² for exterior hard surfaces.
- DHS defines **lead contaminated soil** at ≥ 400 mg/kg in children play areas and 1000 mg/kg in other than children play areas.