

HOW TO WORK SAFELY WITH THE POTENTIAL HAZARD OF NON-INTACT LEAD BASED PAINT

It is essential to keep in mind the potential hazards of working with non-intact lead based paint. Working safely around lead based paint requires that some simple precautions are taken and the workspace is thoroughly cleaned upon project completion. To work safely around potential lead based paint, you will need a list of materials:

- Heavy duty plastic garbage bags
- Spray bottles for water
- Mop buckets (3)
- Hats, gloves, goggles, and painters coveralls
- HEPA Vacuum, if available
- Plastic sheeting
- Duct tape
- Detergent for cleaning area, and hand soap
- Cloths, mop heads and sponges
- Sanding blocks, sanding paper
- N-/00 respirator – if available, if not – use a disposable face mask- **NOTE: Face mask will only help keep out large lead based debris *but may not protect against lead based dust or fine particles.***



When working, you must protect the family and their home. This means making sure no family members and pets are in or near the work area. It is helpful to post a sign to remind the family or others to keep out of the work area.

****Do not allow children, pregnant women, or women who are planning on becoming pregnant into the work area. Lead can harm a developing fetus/child.****

Make sure the area to be worked on will not become contaminated with any lead dust or debris. To accomplish this, set up containment by doing the following:

- Remove everything in the work area or remove all smaller objects and seal large objects in heavy plastic.
- Tape all around any remaining objects and make sure that no dust or particles can penetrate the seal.
- Turn off the heat/air in forced air home systems, cover all vents with plastic, and seal around plastic edges with duct tape.
- Close all open windows and doors in and around the work area. (Ask neighbors to close their windows and doors as well if working on the exterior of a house).
- Place all of your supplies under plastic to protect them from lead debris.
- Lay plastic sheeting around the work area and seal the edges with duct tape.

To protect yourself and workers, do the following

- Wear either disposable coveralls, hats and shoe covers **OR** old clothes, hats, and shoes that can be thrown away. Bring a change of clothing to the work site, and change and discard the contaminated clothing at the work site. Washing clothes may not remove

- the lead and it is possible for the lead to get onto other items in the washer.
- Wear a N-/00 respirator when available, otherwise use a disposable face mask and work protection eyewear/goggles.
 - Wash your hands and face thoroughly before eating, drinking or smoking; and never do any of these activities while in the work area.
 - If showers are not available at the work site, shower as soon as you return home to make sure you have cleaned off any lead based particles remaining on your body and hair.

Now that the family is safe, the persons working on the project are safe, and the area to be worked on is contained, you can start working! Here are some tips to work safely:

- Using a spray bottle filled with water, mist all surfaces to be scraped or sanded.
- Keep the area damp while scraping or sanding. This will help keep the lead based dust and particles from becoming airborne.
- Power sanding is NOT recommended and in some states is illegal.
- Wipe away any debris resulting from the sanding or scraping with a cloth, and throw the cloth into a garbage bag. This will help keep any debris that may contain lead particles contained.

After the area is sanded, scraped, primed and painted, it can now be cleaned up. Here are some steps to follow for cleaning up the work area:

- Pick up all disposable items and place them in plastic garbage bag(s).
- With your spray bottle, mist the plastic to help keep particles on the plastic, and fold inwards.
- Next, place the bag(s) into a heavy-duty garbage bag(s) and seal with duct tape.
- If a vacuum with a HEPA filter is available, use it to vacuum the work area after all plastic is removed. If a vacuum with a HEPA filter is not available, use a regular vacuum.
- Use 3 mop buckets to clean up, if the room is not carpeted. Fill each bucket with water, and add mopping solution to the first bucket. Follow this mopping procedure:
 1. Dunk mop into the 1st bucket and mop an area of the floor.
 2. Dunk mop into 2nd bucket, wring out the mop into the same 2nd bucket.
 3. Dunk mop into 3rd bucket, wring out the mop into the same 3rd bucket.
 4. Repeat the following steps for each area mopped.
 5. Following this 3-bucket method helps to keep the mopping solution cleaner.
 6. After mopping the work area, dispose of the mop head(s) by placing it/them in a plastic garbage bag, fold the bag inward, place it in a heavy duty plastic garbage bag and seal with duct tape.
 7. Flush the water from all 3 buckets down the toilet – never in a sink.
 8. Make sure to wash your hands after cleaning up the work site!

In conclusion, PLEASE REMEMBER...

Work Wet – Always spray any area you sand or scrape.

Work Safe – Follow the work recommendations outlined above.

Workers Only in the Work Area – Keep non-workers out.

Be Safe – No smoking, drinking, or eating in the contained work area.