What are some of the disadvantages of using encapsulants?

- The use of encapsulants for lead paint control is new. There is ***limited experience or information on long-term use*** of these products.
- Encapsulants ***cannot be used on surfaces that rub together*** and therefore experience abrasion.
- Encapsulants ***may not adhere to (stick to) surfaces that experience repeated impact*** (the striking of one thing against another).
- Old ***undercoats of paint may cause encapsulants to peel off*** in the future.
- On-site ***testing of an encapsulant before full application is essential***. Surface preparation, such as cleaning, repair if needed and tape/patch test(s) is critical.
- Encapsulants ***require periodic visual inspection*** to determine if the product remains intact.
- Encapsulated surfaces ***may require periodic repair or maintenance***.
- ***Water*** from roof leaks or broken pipes ***may damage encapsulants***.
- Encapsulants must be ***applied when the air temperature and relative humidity are within limits*** specified by the manufacturer.
- During application of some encapsulants, you ***may need to take specific safety precautions*** such as rubber gloves and eye protection.

Are there other methods to control lead paint?

Yes. Lead paint can be controlled in ***three other ways***:

- ***Covering*** with rigid or semi-rigid materials such as gypsum board or paneling.
- ***Replacing*** the architectural element containing lead paint such as a window or door.
- Completely ***removing*** the lead paint from the surface by wet scraping or wet sanding.

For more information on Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control, contact your Local Health Department or the Connecticut Department of Public Health, at the phone number and address on the front cover of this pamphlet.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Encapsulants:

Deciding Whether to Encapsulate

Prevent LEAD poisoning.

Local Health Department Information:

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Adapted for use in Connecticut from materials prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
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What are encapsulants?

Encapsulants are coatings applied as ***a liquid*** or in ***a cement-like compound.*** They are made to be long-lasting barriers over lead paint.
Typical paints such as latex and oil-based paint <u>are not</u> encapsulants.

In Connecticut only liquid or cement-like encapsulants authorized by the Commissioner of Public Health can be used.

How do I find out which encapsulants are authorized for use in Connecticut?

- The ***Connecticut Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)***, issues a Registry of Authorized Encapsulant Products. Consult the Registry for encapsulant product names and manufacturers.
- To be on the ***Connecticut Registry of Authorized Encapsulant Products***, an encapsulant must comply with the appropriate American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard or a similar testing organization.

If I choose to use an encapsulant, who decides where they should go, and who applies them?

- Only ***Certified Lead Inspectors,*** or ***the Property Owner***, may determine by visual and tape tests surfaces eligible for encapsulation.
- ***Only Licensed Contractors,*** or ***the Property Owner,*** may apply encapsulants for lead paint control.

How do encapsulants work?

- Encapsulants ***cover lead paint*** so that the lead paint cannot be touched or produce dangerous dust.
- Encapsulants are best ***used on surfaces with intact paint*** and that are not damaged.
- Encapsulants ***cannot be used on every surface*** containing lead paint such as floors, stair treads/risers, thresholds and surfaces subjected to friction or impact.

How do I decide to use an encapsulant?

The decision to use an encapsulant to cover lead paint is important. There are ***several points to consider*** before deciding to use an encapsulant:

- Encapsulants can be ***long-lasting but not permanent***. Permanent solutions include replacement of such things as doors or windows or complete removal of lead paint by wet scraping or wet sanding.
- Encapsulants covering lead paint ***should be checked periodically*** to make sure they remain in good condition.
- ***Damaged encapsulants should be repaired***. If an encapsulant covers a wall or window casing and a hole gets knocked into the wall or casing, the hole should be patched and the encapsulant reapplied to the damaged area.
- Encapsulants ***may cost less than other methods*** of controlling lead paint.
- ***Different encapsulants may need to be used in different situations***. Follow the manufacturers' recommendations and instructions.
- If a surface with lead paint is intact, ***surface preparation*** such as cleaning ***should not produce lead dust***.
- Surfaces in need of minor repair may be encapsulated once the repairs are made providing specific tape/patch tests show the ***surface is*** otherwise ***eligible for encapsulation.***

What are the advantages of using encapsulants?

- ***Residents may not need to move*** from their home while encapsulants are being applied ***if no dust-generating activities take place***. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions.
- Use of encapsulants ***may save time***, be ***less costly*** and be ***safer for workers*** than some other methods to control lead paint.