

Lead-Safe Work Practices

By learning some basic safety practices for dealing with painted surfaces, workers can greatly reduce the risks of lead poisoning for themselves and their own children, as well as for their clients and their children.

Lead-safe work practices include the following:

- Unless testing has shown that a building does **not** contain lead paint, assume that any house built before 1978 contains lead paint and therefore requires the use of lead-safe practices
- Choose methods that create the least amount of lead dust
- Contain as much lead dust as possible
- Wear appropriate protective clothing and work gear
- Keep occupants, especially children and pregnant women, away from work sites, particularly when dust is present
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke in work areas
- Clean up work sites in lead-safe ways
- Dispose of debris and refuse in lead-safe ways



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For further information call the
University of Connecticut
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(860) 570-9012

For a list of qualified trainers, see
www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/lead/Lead-Safe/CT%20LSWP%20trainers.pdf

Training Program and Training Manual

Lead-Safe Painting, Remodeling, and Maintenance



A training course
approved by the
**U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development**

Developed by the
**University of Connecticut
Cooperative Extension System and
Environmental Research Institute
in partnership with the
State of Connecticut
Department of Public Health**

Training in **Lead-Safe Painting, Remodeling, and Maintenance**

Millions of houses and apartments built before 1978 have paint that contains lead. Chips, dust, and fumes from this paint can be very dangerous to human health if they are not handled properly.

Lead is particularly hazardous to unborn babies, infants, and young children. Lead can damage the brain and other parts of the nervous system and can cause long-term behavior and learning problems.

In adults, lead can cause reproductive problems, high blood pressure, digestive disorders, nervous system problems, difficulty with memory and concentration, and muscle and joint pain.

Extreme cases of lead poisoning, which are now rare, can cause comas and death.

Yet lead poisoning is a largely **preventable** illness.

Role of the Worker

Remodelers, renovators, painters, maintenance personnel, and property owners often work in houses and apartments that contain lead paint. The kind of work they perform can create a lead hazard if they disturb this paint and produce paint dust or chips. Even common activities, such as sanding and scraping an old painted window sill, removing cabinets, and removing paint with a heat gun, can produce dangerous lead dust, chips, or fumes.

Children and Lead

If children breathe the lead fumes or swallow even small amounts of lead-paint dust or chips from these projects, they can become poisoned. Very young children, who crawl on the floor and put toys in their mouths, are usually at higher risk and are more susceptible to damage.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, some 340,000 children in the United States have elevated levels of lead in their blood. Even children who seem healthy may have high levels of lead.

To be eligible to work at many renovation, rehab, and painting projects that use federal funds (such as CDBG and HOME funds), workers must complete a HUD-approved course in lead-safe work practices, such as this training.

Training Program and Training Manual

The University of Connecticut, in partnership with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, has developed a lead-safety training program and training manual for renovators, remodelers, painters, maintenance personnel, and property owners. The hands-on training program teaches workers how to protect themselves and their families, as well as consumers and their families, from the hazards of lead poisoning.

The training and documentation

- Explain the hazards of lead poisoning
- Teach workers how to prepare work sites in lead-safe ways
- Show workers exactly how to perform renovation, remodeling, and maintenance activities in lead-safe ways
- Teach workers how to clean up work sites in lead-safe ways
- Detail the equipment and supplies needed to perform all procedures
- Provide checklists for workers and consumers to document compliance with lead-safe work practices
- Are available in English and Spanish