

Lead Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Program

We know the dangers of lead, especially for children. For the past 30+ years, we've taken steps to eliminate lead from gasoline, paint, toys and other products. Unfortunately, lead used in those products remain, so we must use extra care when working with the older products.

Beginning in April 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency started enforcing the "Lead Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Program." This program applies to all residential homes, apartments and child-occupied facilities (schools and day-care centers) built before 1978.

Under the new federal rules, anyone who is paid to make repairs or renovation on a qualifying building must receive training and be certified in proper lead containment and removal.

Before any repairs or renovation can start, residents must be notified by the contractor of lead hazards in the building.

Any remodeling, repair/maintenance, electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, window replacement, deck repair and other work that disturbs more than six square feet in the interior of a home and 20 square feet on the exterior of a home built before 1978 requires the contractor to have the appropriate training and certification.

A person or company must be licensed and certified to handle lead clean-up procedures to operate as a contractor in Minnesota. If a contractor asks you to pull the permit before starting any work, do not do it, and you may want to consider getting a new contractor. You do not save any money, and the contractor could avoid the Lead Based Paint Safe Practices Rules that are designed to prevent contamination of your home. Skirting the new federal regulations could create liabilities on the homeowner in the future.

Homeowners are responsible to ensure that your contractor is certified in lead removal. Ask your contractor to provide a copy of their certification and the certification of any sub-contractor who may be working on your home. Beginning February 2011, the City's Code Enforcement Division will verify that a contractor is certified before issuing a remodeling permit.

Federal rules do not apply to owners of single-family homes who are doing repairs or renovations themselves, as long as they live in the home. We recommend that homeowners follow safe practices rules to protect their property, themselves and their families from lead contamination. It is possible that work on your home could spread lead contamination inside and outside of your home.

Contact the EPA at 1-800-621-8431 or www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/regulation.htm or the Minnesota Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/prof/pre/index.html for more information about the Pre-Renovation Education Program and Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule.