

LEAD POISONING **FACT SHEET**

Lead Poisoning – A Constant Danger

Introduction

Older houses pose a serious health and safety problem. There is a possibility they may contain lead-based paint. Lead paint is poisonous. The problem is most prevalent in houses built before 1978.

Older Houses a Special Problem

The insides of older houses often have layers of lead-based paint on walls, ceilings and woodwork. When the paint chips off or when the plaster peels or breaks, there is real danger for infants and younger children. Flaking, chipping, peeling or loose lead-based paint and paint primers may be found out of doors on the side of the house, walls, fences, porches, fire escapes, window sills, door frames, garages and lamp posts. These deteriorated conditions constitute an immediate lead-based paint hazard.

Danger for Children

Children are the principal victims in living quarters containing lead-based paint. Young children, especially between the ages of one to six, usually eat whatever they can get into their mouths; paint, dirt, dust or other non-food items. If they eat enough lead-based paint, their brains can be damaged so seriously that they could develop behavioral problems, learning difficulties, severe mental retardation, blindness or even die.

Adults can also be lead poisoned. The task of removing lead-based paint from dwellings can be hazardous. All workers should use adequate ventilation and safety precautions.

Watch Your Child

Do not let your child chew on woodwork, stairs, railings or other places that have been painted even though you see no loose or flaking paint. If you see your child putting pieces of paint or plaster in his or her mouth, you should take the child to the doctor, clinic, local health department, childhood lead poisoning center or hospital as soon as possible. Also, do not burn lead-painted wood in fireplaces.

Prevention Steps You Can Take

1. Be sure to tell the rest of your family and those who baby sit for you about the danger of lead poisoning.
2. Check your walls, ceilings and woodwork for signs of peeling or crumbling of paint or plaster.

- 3: Get a broom or steel brush and remove all loose paint from walls, woodwork and ceilings. Carefully sweep up the pieces and put them in a paper bag or wrap them in newspaper and put the package in a trash container out of the reach of small children.
4. Always keep the floor clear of loose bits of paint and plaster. Be especially careful about keeping lower parts of the walls free of loose paint.
5. You can also cover up the lower part of walls by moving heavy furniture against them.
6. In order to prevent future damage to interior surfaces, leaky plumbing should be repaired. Likewise, exterior surfaces should be free of holes, breaks and other conditions, which might admit rain or dampness to the interior walls and ceilings.
7. Lead-based paint should be permanently removed by scraping the surface to the bare wood and/or scraping, sanding and brushing the wall; then repainting with a new, safe unleaded paint. Simply painting over deteriorated paint surfaces does not remove the lead hazard.

Scope of the Requirement

Federal law requires that before any buildings are purchased, rented, rehabilitated or assisted in any manner with HUD funds or under any HUD program, lead-based paint “immediate hazards” must be identified and eliminated. In addition, all federally owned property prior to resale for residential use must have the “immediate hazard” removed. Also, Federal Law prohibits the use of lead-based painting materials on any exterior or interior residential structure constructed or rehabilitated by the Federal Government or with Federal Assistance in any form.

Legal Authority

P.I. 91-695 as amended by P.I. 93-151 and 94-317.

I have received a copy of this letter and the brochure entitled “Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home”.

Homeowner’s Signature

Date

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Date