



Get the Facts!

about

LEAD



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Schools and Lead-Based Paint Activities

Children Run Better Unleaded

During renovation projects, chips and dust from lead-based paint can create a health hazard. Lead exposure can be dangerous, especially to children under 6 years old. Even a low level of lead exposure can cause learning disabilities and other serious health effects. To protect people from exposure to lead in paint, dust, and soil, Congress passed the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, also known as Title X. Under Title X, EPA developed a rule to ensure that contractors who inspect, assess, or remove lead-based paint are well qualified, trained and certified to conduct these activities.

What Do Schools Need to Do?

School administrators and maintenance staff need to determine if their renovation project requires certified contractors. If so, they need to ensure that their contractors are certified for lead work and that appropriate work practice standards are followed. Hire a certified professional for a safer school.

When Is Certification Required?

Training and certification are required for contractors who do lead-based paint inspection, risk assessment, and abatement in kindergarten classrooms, day-care centers, and preschools.

What Buildings Are Covered?

Contractors doing lead inspection, risk assessment and abatement work in "child-occupied facilities" are required to obtain training, receive certification and follow work practice

standards. **A child-occupied facility is a building, or a portion of a building, constructed prior to 1978, that is visited regularly by the same child, under the age of six. Such facilities include kindergarten classrooms, day-care centers, and preschools.**

What Are Work Practice Standards?

Work practice standards ensure that lead-based paint activities are conducted safely, reliably and effectively. The following is an example of a restricted work practice during an abatement: "Machine sanding or grinding or abrasive blasting or sandblasting of lead-based paint is prohibited unless used with High Efficiency Particulate Air exhaust control." Clearance testing is required after abatement projects. Dust wipe samples, for example, assure occupants that lead dust hazards have been removed.

More Questions?

Information on lead certification and on lead and children is available at www.epa.gov/r10earth/lead.htm or by calling the **National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-5323.**

For more information, contact **Bob Kirkland** at **1-800-424-4372** or at **(206) 553-8282.**