

Safety Talk: Lead Clean-Up



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



Buildings built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint.

Drysanding, scraping, brushing, or blasting lead-based paint can produce dust and paint chips.

Friction from surfaces rubbing together, such as windows and doors or from bumping furniture, can also produce dust.

Potential Surfaces of Lead Hazards

- **Windows and window sills**
- **Doors and door frames**
- **Stairs, railings, and banisters**
- **Porches and fences**
- **Any other surfaces that have been covered with paint in buildings built before 1978**

Lead based paint that is in good condition does *not* post an immediate risk.

For further information: Please review the Lead Policy on the Environmental Health and Safety website.

House Keeping Tips for Paint Debris

- **Contact Environmental Health and Safety if you think you might be potentially exposed to lead-based paint debris.**
- Employees must be trained and fit tested for a respirator so that they may properly utilize the respirator while cleaning up lead-based paint or any other time they may be exposed to lead dust.
- Do not attempt to make repairs to chipped and peeling lead-based paint.
- Do not eat, drink, chew gum or tobacco, or smoke during the cleaning process.
- Wear clothing that can be easily washed and latex gloves to protect hands from the detergent. Also, be sure to wash hands after cleaning.
- With latex gloves on, pick up large paint chips and place them into a plastic trash bag. Use a tack cloth, masking tape, or duct tape to pick up small paint chips.
- Wet mop and clean the area. Use disposable paper towels as much as possible. If you must use fabric dust cloths, sponges, or mops, be sure they are only used for lead dust clean-up. Do not use them for any other purpose.
- Pour dirty water into the toilet instead of the sink, so the lead does not contact food preparation areas.
- A High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter equipped vacuum cleaner is a special type of vacuum cleaner that can remove very small particles from floors, window sills, and carpets and contains the particles inside the vacuum cleaner. HEPA vacuums should be used when vacuuming lead dust/debris.

Workers must be certified to work inside residential buildings and child occupied spaces.