

## A LEAD SAFE HOME

Lead is a poisonous metal that our bodies cannot use. Studies show even small amounts of it in the body can cause adverse health effects. Young children and infants are especially at risk because it can damage the brain, nerves, blood and other parts of the body. A child who is lead poisoned finds it hard to learn and may not behave well. Lead has been used for many years and can be found in and around the house. The largest source of poisoning to children is lead paint.

The state's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends that all walls and other surfaces that are accessible to children age six or younger be free of cracks or chips that could add to lead dust or paint chips in the child's environment. Particular attention should be given to areas in the home that tend to wear faster than others such as window wells, sills, frames, doors, door frames and jambs. Water damage to ceilings and walls can also cause paint to crack and peel on these surfaces.

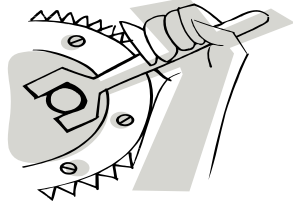
### *Kentucky Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*

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Improvement  
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## LEAD HAZARDS : Guidelines for Home Repairs



# Safe Work Practices



- Remove all furnishings from the area where work is to be done.
- Cover furnishings that could not be moved and seal floors with 6 mil thick plastic sheeting.
- All persons, especially children and pregnant women should stay away from the area where work is being done. Put sheeting on the ground outside of any windows that are being renovated.
- Use masks rated safe for particulate dust if the work planned will produce dust. A regular disposable dust mask will not protect you from lead dust.
- Wet areas to be scraped with water from a spray bottle to reduce the amount of dust that is produced.
- Never bring food and drink into the work area. Do not chew gum, smoke or chew tobacco. Wash hands, arms and face after leaving the work area. Rinse mouth before eating.
- When liquid paint removers are used, there should be adequate ventilation provided by open windows and fans. Avoid products that contain methylene chloride.
- Safety goggles should be worn while working to protect the eyes from chips and flakes of paint.
- Use caution when working near electric service wires. Contacting wires with aluminum or wet ladders could result in severe injury or death.

## CLEAN-UP

- ◇ Use wet cloth to wipe down all surfaces in the work area and nearby rooms. Wet-mop all non-carpeted floors in the work area and nearby areas. Use a mix of water and soap. Do not dry sweep because it will stir up and spread the dust around. Carpeted floors should be steam-cleaned.
- ◇ Change the water frequently and rinse out cleaning sponges and rags. Sponges and rags used in this cleaning should not be used in anything else.
- ◇ If available, use two different buckets for your wash and rinse water.
- ◇ All wastes from any lead paint removal must be well wrapped and removed from the worksite at the end of **each work day**. Small amounts of solid lead-containing wastes from residential properties may be wrapped and sealed in two layers of 6 mil plastic and thrown away with other household waste.
- ◇ Take work clothes and shoes off before entering your home. Wash work clothes separately from the other laundry.
- ◇ Shower at the end of each work day.



NEVER USE A BELT-SANDER, PROPANE TORCH, HIGH TEMPERATURE HEAT GUN, SCRAPER, OR SANDPAPER ON PAINTED SURFACES THAT MAY CONTAIN LEAD.

**Note: This guidance pamphlet has been compiled to help ensure safer work practices during small routine maintenance and repairs. Extensive work involving surfaces (larger than 2 feet squared) covered with lead paint should be performed by a professional contractor who follows Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines for lead-containing paint removal, and applicable laws and regulations regarding disposal of lead-containing paint chips and debris.**