

LEAD-BASED PAINT FACT SHEET

Compliance with EPA's RRP Rule

To: Landlords and Property Managers

EPA regulations mandate that any contractor or maintenance staff, from plumbers to electricians to painters, who disturbs more than six square feet of lead paint, replaces windows or does any demolition while working in a pre-1978 residential apartment, home, and certain schools and child day-care centers, must be Lead-Safe Certified and trained in lead-safe work practices. If not, you could face substantial fines.

WHERE DOES LEAD DANGER COME FROM?

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, it can be toxic to humans and animals, causing health effects. There is no level of lead exposure that is known to be without risk, and lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. Common renovation activities like sanding, cutting and demolition, can create microscopic hazardous lead dust and chips. Proper work practices can protect the people in your building, especially children, from this risk.

Even for small jobs, the key is to use lead-safe work practices such as containing dust inside the work area, using dust minimizing work methods and conducting careful cleanup. People not involved in the work must be kept out of the work area. Most important, it means making sure anyone doing renovation work in your building is Lead-Safe Certified.

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR?

As an owner or property manager, it is your responsibility to choose a contractor who is Lead-Safe Certified. Here are a few helpful tips:

- Ask if the contractor is certified and trained to use lead-safe work practices and ask for copies of their firm certificate and EPA training certificate(s) for their Certified Renovators,
- Have the contractor explain the details of the work and how they will minimize lead hazards during the work process.
- Ask what lead-safe methods will be used to set up and perform the work.
- Make sure the contract is clear about how the work will be set up, conducted, and cleaned.

DOES MY STAFF HAVE TO BE LEAD-SAFE CERTIFIED?

Federal law requires that if you or someone on your staff is performing the work, your firm must be Lead-Safe Certified, and your staff must be trained in lead-safe work practices. These work practices include:

- Containing the work area.
- Avoiding renovation methods that generate large amounts of contaminated dust.
- Cleaning up thoroughly.

GETTING YOUR LEAD-SAFE CERTIFICATION.

To become certified, individuals must attend a full-day Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule Course. The price of this course is set by private trainers that are accredited by the EPA. For additional information and to find an accredited trainer, visit: www.epa.gov/getleadsafe or call 1-800-424-LEAD.