

Recommended Lead-Safe Work Practices For Disturbing Presumed Lead-Based Paint

When disturbing painted surfaces in pre-1978 housing, (including sanding, scraping, opening a wall to make a plumbing / electrical repair, repairing or replacing a window system etc.), it must **"presumed"** these surfaces contain **lead-based paint** [LPB], unless actual test results are available that indicate otherwise. Lead-safe work practices are now required to protect workers and residents from possible lead contamination when disturbing > 2 ft. of painted surface area per interior room or > 20 ft. of painted exterior wall surface area (called De minimus standards*). The EPA's *Lead-Based Paint Pre-Renovation Education Rule* requires the distribution of the EPA Pamphlet, "**Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home**," to all tenants and obtaining proof of receipt, prior to starting such work (see above). Workers must follow these safe work practices, and wear personal protective clothing, including: **

- 1) Worker coveralls [#s 1-6 are Cal OSHA requirements for persons hired to do this work]
- 2) Hair / head coverings
- 3) Safety glasses / goggles
- 4) Rubber gloves
- 5) Shoe coverings (preferably non-skid)
- 6) Half-face air purifying respirator with HEPA filters***
- 7) Containment with 6 mil polyethylene sheeting of the room floor, furniture, or exterior ground to prevent lead dust contamination
- 8) Removal of residents and children from the work area / premises
- 9) Perform wet scraping / wet sanding; do not use power grinders, sanders, etc., unless equipped with functioning HEPA devices
- 10) Operate heat guns below 1,100° F to prevent creation of lead paint fumes
- 11) No eating, smoking, etc., within the work area; thoroughly wash hands with warm water and soap upon leaving the work area to eat, or go home, etc. At job finish, clean up with
- 12) At job finish, clean up with HEPA vac and wet wipe / mop (as applicable) warm water and detergent - all surfaces within work area, e.g., window sills and troughs, mullions, tops of molding, floor, carpets, furniture, etc., to remove possible lead dust contamination; discard mop water in toilet, but preferably
- 13) Discard presumed LBP paint scrapings, chips, dust, mop water, etc., via the LA Co. Household Haz. Waste Roundup [**Call 888-253-2652 or 888-CLEANLA**]
- 14) Wash personal protective equipment (work clothes, etc.) separately from rest of family's clothing.

* Note: Elements of safe work practices, e.g., containment, wetting work surfaces, dust control, cleaning, etc., should be also be implemented for De minimus areas

** The Contractor is responsible for implementing the Cal OSHA Lead-In-Construction Worker Safety Standards

*** NIOSH-rated dust mask may be used if respirator unavailable; respirator provides far superior protection from inhalation of lead dust and fumes

Related articles:

www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/rrpfactsheet2008.htm
www.lapublichealth.org/lead