



Plumas County Environmental Health

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Lead Based Paint

Definitions:

- **Lead-Based Paint:** Paint or other surface coatings that contain an amount of lead equal to, or in excess of half of one percent (0.5%) by weight, 5000 ppm.
- **Lead Hazard:** Deteriorated lead based paint, lead contaminated dust, lead contaminated soil, disturbing lead based paint or presumed lead based paint without containment, or any other nuisance which may result in persistent and quantifiable lead exposure.
- **Lead-Related Construction Work:** Any construction, alteration, painting, demolition, salvage, renovation, repair, or maintenance of any residential or public building, including preparation and cleanup that, by using or disturbing lead-containing material or soil, may result in significant exposure of adults or children to lead.

Residential Buildings

If you are planning work which disturbs lead painted surfaces, you need to make sure the job is done safely. The California Department of Public Health recommends that you hire a contractor who is state certified to perform lead related construction work.

If you decide to do the work yourself, you should get information on how to do the job safely including but not limited to:

1. Separate the work area from non-work areas, "Containment" refers to various steps you can take to prevent lead from migrating beyond the work area.
2. Capture dust and debris which contain lead by utilizing a tarp or sheets of plastic on the floor or ground. This will help prevent soil contamination when doing exterior work and expedite job site clean up.
3. Choose surface preparation methods that produce less dust and fume, do as little dry sanding as possible-try alternatives like wet sanding sponges. Use HEPA vacuum-exhausted tools which produce less dust. Avoid dry abrasive blasting; it creates very high levels of dust.
4. Work in a way that keeps dust and fume levels down. Where there is not a problem with raising the grain on bare wood, mist the surface with water while scraping, wire brushing or cleaning
5. Don't kick up dust. Use only wet methods or HEPA vacuums to clean work areas, clean up settled dust and debris at least daily.

Additional information is available by calling the National Lead Information Center at (800) 424-5323.

Public Buildings

As defined in Title 17, California Code of Regulations, public building means a structure, and its land, which is generally accessible to the public, including but not limited to, schools, daycare centers, museums, airports, hospitals, stores, convention centers, government facilities, office buildings and any other building which is not an industrial or a residential building.

Any **lead related construction work** or any type of work performed on a public building which creates a **lead hazard** must be performed by a state certified lead contractor. To find a State Certified Contractor, Worker or Lead Inspector contact the California Department of Public Health Lead-Related Construction Information Line at (800) 597-5323 or on-line at www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead.