

Working Safely with Lead Paint

Where is Lead Paint found?

Lead was added to paint before the 1980s. If a building has been renovated a number of times over the years, it may have a number of paint layers where lead may be found. Buildings built before the 1960's have a higher chance of containing lead paint.

Who is at Risk of Exposure?

If you do any of the following activities with the above mentioned materials, you may be at risk of breathing in lead paint dust:

- Repairing
- Patching and painting
- Sanding
- Welding
- Other activities where paint dust can become airborne

Depending on the type of activity and the duration, workers may be exposed to airborne concentrations at levels above the occupational exposure limits.

Health Effects

Lead can cause damage the brain and nervous system, reproductive system, and delayed development in children.

Protection & Controls

The following control measures are recommended to reduce lead exposures in the workplace:

- Create safe work procedures that apply to the use of equipment and steps to follow in performing the work; train workers in these and ensure these procedures are being followed.
- Use hand tools.
- Keep dust to a minimum. Use controls such as wet dust suppression, dust extraction attachments, and HEPA vacuum attachments.
- Clean up after during and after working. Do not dry sweep or use compressed air to clean-up debris.
- Practice good personal hygiene to avoid unnecessary exposure to lead paint dust, including regular hand washing.
- Only as a last resort (decision must be supported and documented), allow a worker to be fit-tested and wear a CSA approved respirator.

For More Information

Manitoba Construction Safety Association

<http://www.constructionsafety.ca/toolbox/documents/lead.pdf>

NIOSH

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/lead/>

Work Safe BC

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/portals/construction/HazardousMaterials.asp?ReportID=34094>

Ontario Ministry of Labour

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/lead/>