

Goal Statement

The goal of the Lead Program is to control and prevent childhood lead poisoning by reducing lead hazards in pre-1978 housing within the City of Long Beach. Education and community outreach are integral components of this effort to reduce lead poisoning.

Resources

LOCAL

Child Health Disability Prevention	(562) 570-4222
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPPP)	(562) 570-4210
Public Health Laboratory	(562) 570-4164
Department of Planning and Building (Sand Blasting)	(562) 570-6651
LA County Hazardous Waste Roundup	1-888-253-2652

STATE & FEDERAL

California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA)	(415) 703-5100
California Department of Health Services, Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	(510) 622-4332
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9	(415) 744-1124
HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control	(202) 755-1785
The National Lead Information Center	1-800-532-3394



Lead Program



Department of Health & Human Services
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Lead Program
2525 Grand Avenue
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to Serve*

Department of Health & Human Services
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

LEAD PROGRAM

Childhood lead poisoning is the most preventable environmental health hazard facing children nationwide. It affects all socio-economic groups. Lead poisoning is most damaging to children and pregnant women, and is known to affect the development and learning ability of children.



The goal of the Environmental Health Bureau's Lead Program is to control and prevent conditions which result in childhood lead poisoning. This is accomplished by providing educational information to the public, support to City agencies assisting in the rehabilitation of targeted high-risk affordable housing, investigation and early response to families of lead-poisoned children and enforcement of applicable laws.

Program services include:

- Community outreach and health education, including information about safe work practices and the importance of early testing and diagnosis of children exposed to lead.
- Limited funding of lead-based paint hazard control activities for high risk housing, through the Lead Safe Affordable Housing Program, funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Paint evaluation, project design, monitoring and clearance testing for affordable housing units in support of Community Development Department programs.
- Investigation of childhood lead poisoning and enforcement of environmental ordinances to protect children.

- Free blood lead screening and testing through the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program for children ages six and under and pregnant women.
- Lead inspection for pre-1978 constructed properties as part of the Abrasive Blasting Permit Process.

Sources of Lead Poisoning in Your Home

Although several sources of lead hazards exist in our environment, lead-based paint in pre-1978 constructed housing poses the most common and threatening lead hazard to children. As the paint deteriorates, lead paint dust is generated in areas that may be touched by children, including window sills and doors. Peeling lead paint on buildings and lead paint, which has fallen onto bare soil in play areas, also pose a threat to children. Intact lead based paint surfaces can be disturbed by dry sanding and dry scraping, creating a lead paint dust hazard.

Lead poisoning occurs most frequently when children place their hands in their mouths after touching areas contaminated by lead paint. Young children can receive an acute exposure without the awareness of their parents. Therefore, it is recommended that children, 6 years and younger, receive testing for lead.

Prevention

Safe work practices when repairing or repainting deteriorated lead based paint surfaces are essential in preventing more lead hazards.

Simple practices an owner can implement include:

- Making the assumption that all painted surfaces in buildings built before 1978 contain lead based paint;
- Keeping all non-workers, especially children, pregnant women and pets, outside of the work area;

- Covering the work area, all belongings and job access pathways with 6 mil polyethylene plastic sheeting;



Before

- Using a high quality dust mask, disposable gloves, and protective clothing;
- Moistening the area to be painted with a spray bottle of water;
- Removing all wet paint waste and wrapping in plastic before discarding in trash (Call the local Hazardous Waste Roundup program for free discard of wet paint scrapings weighing more than one pound);
- Avoid creating paint dust when removing and discarding plastic sheeting;
- Wet mopping the area after sheeting is removed;
- Cleaning/disinfecting mop when clean-up is completed;
- Bathing thoroughly when work is completed;
- Washing work clothes separately from other laundry.



After

Consult with a professional or use the resource list if you need further information. To obtain the free Environmental

Protection Agency brochure, "Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home," call the Health Department at (562) 570-8880.

SOURCE: Environmental Protection Agency, "Reducing Lead Hazard When Remodeling Your Home."