

Compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Renovation, Repair and Painting Law



To Protect Our Children

Extremely small amounts of lead-contaminated dust can poison children and adults. Lead is especially hazardous to children, damaging the brain and central nervous system. Exposure can cause irreversible damage including decreased intelligence, learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and hyperactivity. Often, symptoms of lead poisoning are not immediately obvious.

Construction activities disturb lead-based paint, creating lead-contaminated dust. Lead dust cannot be seen, is hard to cleanup and travels easily through the air landing on items such as clothing and tools. Containing the dust and a thorough cleaning of the renovation area is the key to eliminating lead poisoning of our children.

School District Responsibilities

If your district has a building(s) built prior to 1978 that children six years old and younger (daycare, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten or first grade) occupy at any time during the day, the following apply:

- An EPA-Certified Renovator must be on staff. The staff member who is the Certified Renovator should be someone who is involved in overseeing the day-to-day maintenance and repair of buildings. For larger districts, this may be the head of facilities or operations. For smaller districts, this may be the superintendent. To become a Certified Renovator, an EPA-approved 8-hour training course taught by an EPA-accredited training provider is required. The training is required every five years at a cost of \$200 to \$300.
- The school district must obtain EPA Firm Certification. The certification is for a five-year period at a cost of \$300.
- The Certified Renovator must train all district employees who perform construction, maintenance, and repair work on lead-safe work practices.
- Prior to any work being performed, the Certified Renovator will provide lead-based paint testing for the area of the work. If lead is not detected, there are no additional requirements. However, if lead is present, all work must conform fully to the EPA Renovation, Repair, and Painting Law, including lead-safe work practices.
- When construction, maintenance or repair is performed by contractors hired by the district, the Certified Renovator will provide lead-based paint testing for the area of the work. If lead is not detected, there are no additional requirements. However, if lead is present, the contractor performing the work shall be a Certified Renovator and Certified Firm.

- When a district contracts with a general contractor to perform work such as renovations or additions, the general contractor shall be a Certified Renovator and Certified Firm. The general contractor will provide lead-based paint testing for the area of the work. If lead is not detected, there are no additional requirements. However, if lead is present, all individuals performing renovation activities on behalf of the firm are required to be either Certified Renovators or have been trained by a Certified Renovator.

Please remember that the above only apply to target buildings--those built prior to 1978 that children six years old and under occupy.

Summary

The objective of the EPA Renovation, Repair, and Painting Law is to protect the health of our children. The school district is responsible for ensuring that construction activities that disturb painted areas in pre-1978 buildings, with children six years old and under, comply fully with the law. All districts with these target buildings must employ at least one EPA-Certified Renovator, obtain Firm Certification, and train their staff on lead-safe work practices.

In addition to schools and daycares, the law also applies to residential housing built prior to 1978, including single family homes, duplexes, townhouses and apartments. All landlords and homeowners shall ensure that all construction, maintenance, and repair work performed in these structures is completed by a Certified Renovator with a Firm Certificate and that all work adheres to lead-safe work practices.

Extensive information about the law is available on the EPA's Website: <www.epa.gov/lead>. In addition, the State Department of Education has a Certified Renovator on staff that can assist school districts with questions and information. Please contact Cathleen Guthery, Director of Architectural Services, Capital Improvement Section, at (405) 521-3812 or <Cathleen_Guthery@sde.state.ok.us>.