

## **Lead-Safe Remodeling Procedures**

**Background:** Houses built before 1978 usually have lead-based paint on the exterior, interior or both areas. NOTE: Lead-based paint that is in good condition usually is not a hazard. However, flaking, peeling, chipping, chalking or cracked lead-based paint is a hazard. Young children, pregnant women and the elderly are particularly susceptible. Federal and municipal regulations now require stricter and safer working procedures for Rebuilding Together volunteers when working on older homes.

### **The lead hazard appears in two forms:**

1. **Lead dust** is caused when painted surfaces bump or rub against each other- Slamming doors, double-hung windows sliding up and down, or when lead-based surfaces are heated, dry scraped or sanded.
2. **Lead Chips** are caused when flaking or chipping paint is removed. The use of circular or belt sanders, propane torches, heat guns or dry scraping or sanding is not permitted.

**Goal:** Our goal is to complete the remodeling/renovation in a timely manner, prevent lead contamination of the home's interior or exterior areas, leave a clean, safe property and protect the health and safety of RT volunteer workers and the family.

- General Approach:**
1. Cover and contain the specific work area.
  2. Work wet when sanding and scraping.
  3. Ventilate and Respire when working.
  4. Clean and Dispose properly.

### **Exterior work:**

The threshold level requiring lead-based procedures starts when you disturb 20 square feet or more of the exterior surfaces.

1. Close all windows and doors in the immediate work area.
2. Cover the ground with poly sheeting up to 10-feet from the foundation.
3. Workers need eye protection, gloves, respirator, long sleeves and pants.
4. When pressure washing, collect paint chips and rinse water in the poly sheets.
5. When hand scraping, brushing and sanding, wet down the immediate surface first with hose, pump sprayer or plastic spray bottle. Work surfaces must be kept moist at all times.
6. Wear safety mask at all times.
7. Collect all chips and scrapings in the plastic. Carefully police the work area and rake up any loose paint chips. Place all chips in double heavy-duty garbage bags. Dispose of these bags in the dumpster or regular weekly curbside pickup.
8. Collected rinse water can be disposed of by pouring down toilet or utility sink.

### **Interior work:**

The threshold level requiring lead-based procedures starts when two square feet or more for any one interior room or space. Or 10% of the total surface area of any small surface such as a window with trim or door will be disturbed.

1. Turn off and seal any air/heating ducts. Remove as much furniture, area rugs and other items as possible from the room.
2. Seal entry doors to the room with a double layer of poly plastic. Tape one sheet to the door frame and floor. Cut a center entry slit starting 6 inches from the door header to within 6 inches of the floor. Tape a second solid layer of poly over the first.
3. Volunteers need to be equipped with the same safety gear detailed in "Exterior work".
4. Collect remaining furniture in the center of the room and cover with poly. Carpeting must be completely covered with poly and taped to baseboard. Cover hard surface floors such as vinyl or hardwood with poly in the work area.
5. Wet all surfaces when scraping and sanding. Prepped areas should be washed down with a TSP or other general household cleaner. Wipe down surfaces with a clean damp cloth or paper towel starting at the top and working down. Pay particular attention to horizontal surfaces such as jambs and sills. **WEAR A SAFETY MASK AT ALL TIMES.**
6. When prep is completed, strip poly from entry doorway, and fold floor poly from room edges into center, dispose of sanding sponges. Wash sponges, cloths/paper towels, and safety mask canisters and double bag all items in heavy-duty garbage bags.

**Remember:** Select your lead-based workers carefully. You are looking for experienced and steady workers willing to follow new procedures. It is best to keep the number of lead-based workers to a minimum.

**Remind these workers that there is no smoking, eating or drinking in the work area. Work clothes should be washed separately from general family laundry. Pregnant women and elderly workers should be assigned to other duties. All children must be excluded from lead removal areas.**

### **Materials needed:**

- 1 roll 10'x100' 6mil polyethylene plastic
- 2 rolls 2"x60 yard fabric duct tape
- utility or pocket knife
- medium and/or coarse sanding sponges
- scrapers, wire brush, putty knives
- rubber gloves, safety goggles
- half-mask safety respirator with P-100 filters
- plastic spray bottles, TSP cleaner
- cleaning sponges and mops
- 2 5-gal plastic pails
- 3 paper towels
- 4 supply of heavy duty garbage bags