Hire RRP Certified Contractors

To Renovate, Repair or Paint Your Home

Lead Tipsheet #9

November 2019

If you are going to paint or fix up your home, protect your family from lead paint dust.

Dust from lead paint is the most common cause of childhood lead poisoning in Maine. Lead paint can be found in homes built before 1978, but most lead paint is found in homes built before 1950. Renovation, repairs and painting projects in older homes can create a lot of lead paint dust.

When hiring contractors, ask to see their RRP certificate. The certificate shows that they have been trained to protect your family from lead paint dust while they work.

About RRP Certification

RRP stands for renovation, repair and painting. Contractors that disturb lead paint in homes built before 1978 must be certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

RRP certified contractors know how to work safely around lead paint. They have been trained to:

- reduce lead paint dust;
- prevent lead paint dust from traveling outside the work area;
- properly clean up.

Many kinds of contractors need the certification. Examples are general contractors, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and painters. Prices for home repairs may be more to cover the costs of materials.

Find RRP Certified Contractors

Go to www.epa.gov/lead/index.html to search for certified contractors near you.

Lead Paint Dust and Children

Lead paint dust collects on floors and other surfaces where children put their hands and play with toys. Children, especially those under age 3, often put their hands and toys in their mouths. This makes it very easy to swallow lead dust. Lead can cause learning disabilities, behavior problems, hearing damage, language or speech delays and lower intelligence.

Living Safely with Lead Paint

Dust from lead paint can stay in your home for a long time. There are things you can do to live safely with lead paint. Examples are:

- proper cleaning and maintenance;
- testing your home for lead dust;
- testing your children for lead;
- hiring certified contractors.

If you do your own home repairs, work lead-safe and clean up properly to protect your family.

Go to www.maine.gov/healthyhomes for more information on living safely with lead paint.

Protect your family.

- Check this website: maine.gov/healthyhomes
- Call for advice: **866-292-3474 • TTY: Call Maine Relay 711**

Department of Health and Human Services