



LEAD- BASED PAINT

This subject never seems to go away and especially this summer there have been a lot of painting contractors not testing the paint on old homes before they start to remove it. The Department has received numerous calls from concerned citizens about this problem. Typically, a painting contractor will start work on a home by sanding and scraping off the paint and then either neighbors or a renter will become concerned and report the problem to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit. An inspector will go to the site and the first question they will ask is, "Do you know if this paint contains lead?" The usual answer is, "I don't know". Everything quickly goes down hill from that point and the painting project is stopped until the paint is tested.

Almost all homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint, and the federal government banned lead-based paint from housing in 1978. Federal law requires that individuals receive certain information (Residential Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Program) before renting or buying a pre-1978 home.

Landlords have to disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. Leases must include a disclosure form about lead-based paint.

Sellers have to disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before selling a house.

Buyers have up to 10 days to check for lead hazards.

Contractors are required to provide lead information to residents before renovating a pre-1978 home under the Pre-Renovation Education Program (PRE). You can find out about other safety measures in the EPA brochure titled "[Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home](#)".

There are certain things that you or your landlord can do to prevent a problem from occurring.

- Have the [area tested](#) for lead-based paint. (The [National Safety Council](#) offers [Lead Dust Test Kit](#) for \$29.95 to determine the presence of lead dust in their home, including detailed instructions and a pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelope to the lab for sample analysis!)
- Have [qualified professionals](#) do the work if lead-based paint is found. There are standards in place for certifying lead-based paint professionals and to ensure the work is done safely, reliably, and effectively.
- You can order materials or speak to an information specialist by contacting the [National Lead Information Center](#) at 1-800-424-LEAD (1-800-424-5323).
- You can contact the National Lead Information Center for help with locating certified contractors in our area and to [see if financial assistance is available](#).

Lead paint is a serious potential health risk.

Depending on the level of exposure, lead can cause damage to the brain and nervous system, behavior problems, slowed growth, headaches, difficulties during pregnancy, high blood pressure, digestive problems and muscle and joint pain.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Lead in Your Home; A Parents Reference Guide](#)
[Finding a Qualified Lead Professional for Your Home](#)
[Testing Your Home for Lead in Paint, Dust and Soil](#)
[Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home](#)
[Proteja a Su Familia en Contra del Plomo en Su Casa](#)
[Lead Paint Safety; a Field Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance and Renovation Work](#)
[Reducing Lead Hazards While Remodeling Your Home](#)
[Lead Dust Test Kit](#)



**CHECK YOUR HOME FOR LEAD-BASED PAINT
BEFORE YOU START ANY WORK.**

Lead is'nt just in paint, learn more about[Lead Poisoning; What is it and Who is Affected](#)