



CITY OF LANCASTER

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTERIOR PAINTING

As of April, 2010, federal law requires ALL contractors disturbing painted surfaces in homes, child care facilities, commercial buildings, and schools built before 1978 to be certified and follow specific safe-work practices to prevent lead contamination.

Most all buildings constructed prior to 1978 contain some levels of lead-paint. When remodeling, or repainting, dangerous levels of lead-paint dust can be released in the air settling on the ground and through open windows or screens. Special precautions must be taken by any person engaged in any type of work outside of any building or home. This is **especially** important if children are present or in the area. **Children are very sensitive to lead and exposure could cause serious mental and physical problems.**

To safely protect the public (children, adults and workers), the City of Lancaster has established guidelines to be followed by anyone engaged in supervision, working or contracting for any preparation, painting, or removal of painted surfaces, repairing or clean-up of a property. These guidelines are as follows:

- Areas prepared for painting or repair must have plastic tarps, heavy mill plastic or **disposable** cloth tarps, on the ground to collect and contain paint chips, dirt and debris. These areas are best to be kept damp and maintained clean by a ground worker whenever possible.
- All paint chips, dirt, and debris must be contained on the property and disposed of properly while work is in progress and a thorough clean-up effort must be done at the end of each work day.
- Shop vacuums ARE NOT safe for cleaning up lead-paint dust and debris. True HEPA vacuums (Recommended) are the safest way to clean up lead-paint dust. Shop vacuums with HEPA filters are safer than regular filtrations devices used in a normal shop vac.
- Power-washing a façade can be extremely hazardous when done improperly. **NO hazardous chemicals** are allowed to be used and washed down into our drainage system. Open power-washing must have proper containment precautions. Every **effort possible** must be used to contain debris from leaving the work area. Every situation is unique and needs to be well thought out before work begins.



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- Contractors disturbing painted surfaces must be certified by EPA by April, 2010
- No use of volatile organic compounds to remove painted surfaces
- No use of flame burning (torch) to remove lead-painted surfaces
- No heat-guns in excess of 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit to remove lead-paint
- No power-washing with hazardous chemicals, unless approved by City
- No dry-sanding or dry-scraping of lead-painted surfaces
- All sanding and scraping of lead-paint done with wet methods
- Use caution tape and cones to mark off work area and or close sidewalk
- Notify the neighboring property owners or tenants of work activities
- Close all windows and doors on yours and neighboring property if feasible
- Clean up work area before, during and after each day's activities
- Keep children, pregnant women, and pets out of the work area in progress
- Use a HEPA filter vacuum or best, a true HEPA vacuum for clean-up
- Post proper signage at the entrance of any building if specific lead activities
- No eating, drinking, or smoking in the work area during work in progress

***Please note, more stringent guidelines may apply, if the intention of any renovation work is specifically designed to eliminate a lead-paint hazard because of a lead-poisoned child or as directed by city codes.**

Any deviation from these guidelines could result in having your job placed on a "STOP WORK ORDER" and be considered a violation of the Lancaster's City Codified Ordinances, under Chapter 150, Health Standards, Article 1167, and or Chapter 182, Lead Poisoning, Article 1183, and legal action could be taken including being cited for non-compliance of a city ordinance and violation of a federal law.