

Lead-Based Paint In Your Home

Manufacturers used to put lead pigments in paint, this method made the paint last longer and paint stayed on surfaces better. But, problems occurred because lead is poisonous. Thus, in 1978 the use of lead-based paint was banned in the United States for residential use. Lead is extremely toxic and poisonous to the human body and interferes with some basic body functions. A body cannot tell the difference between lead and calcium. Calcium is a mineral that strengthens bones. Like calcium, lead remains in the bloodstream for weeks and then is absorbed into the bones, where it can collect for a lifetime. Though lead can affect anyone, children 6 and younger are more susceptible, their bodies develop quickly and they tend to put things in their mouths. For additional information refer to

["Protecting Your Family From Lead In Your Home"](#)

A common lead hazard in your home is lead-based paint when it is peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking. Lead-based paint that appears to be undisturbed can also be a problem if it is on surfaces that children chew or that get a lot of wear and tear and create dust particles; these areas include; windows and window sills, doors and door frames, stairs, railings, and banisters, porches and fences. Dust can be contaminated with lead when lead-based paint is dry scraped or sanded. Soil can become contaminated when exterior lead-based paint from houses or other structures flakes or peels and gets into the soil.

A large amount of Kennewick's housing stock was built before the 1970's; because of this there is a greater risk of lead hazards when renovating your home. For useful tips while remodeling your home, please refer to

["Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home"](#)

Lead poisoning can be prevented! Know the fact's regarding lead-based paint hazards and take preventative measures before you renovate your home.

For additional information, the following web sites are useful for Lead Based Paint
[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)
[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[National Lead Information Center Clearinghouse](#)

References

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (May, 1999). Lead In Your Home: A Parent's Reference Guide. Washington, DC: Author.