

Abatement Projects

The first step in the lead removal process is a thorough lead inspection and/or risk assessment conducted by a certified inspector/risk assessor, working for a certified lead firm. This will determine the location(s) of building components containing lead-based paint. Based on the results of the lead inspection, the decision can be made whether or not an abatement is needed. If an abatement is called for, based on the size of the project, either the certified lead project supervisor or a certified lead project designer must generate an occupant protection plan designed to protect the current and future building occupants and the environment from contamination with lead dust during the abatement project. Once all the necessary supporting documents are prepared (the occupant protection plan, inspection report, bid documents, etc.), the certified lead firm chosen to conduct the abatement must make application for and receive a written notice to proceed prior to commencement of the project.

During the abatement process, all state and federal standards for the removal and disposal of lead-based paint containing building components, waste products, contaminated soil, and any other debris generated during the abatement must be strictly adhered to, along with any other applicable state, federal, and local rules.

A Word of Caution

This brochure is meant solely as a brief overview of the EPD Rules Chapter 391-3-24 Lead-Based Paint Abatement, Certification and Accreditation as they apply to lead-based paint activities conducted in target (pre-1978) housing and child occupied facilities. Before any persons or firms become involved in lead-abatement activities in Georgia, they are encouraged to talk with EPD representatives to make sure they have a thorough understanding of all applicable state and federal rules and regulations, and that they are in possession of all required training, certification, and authorizations.

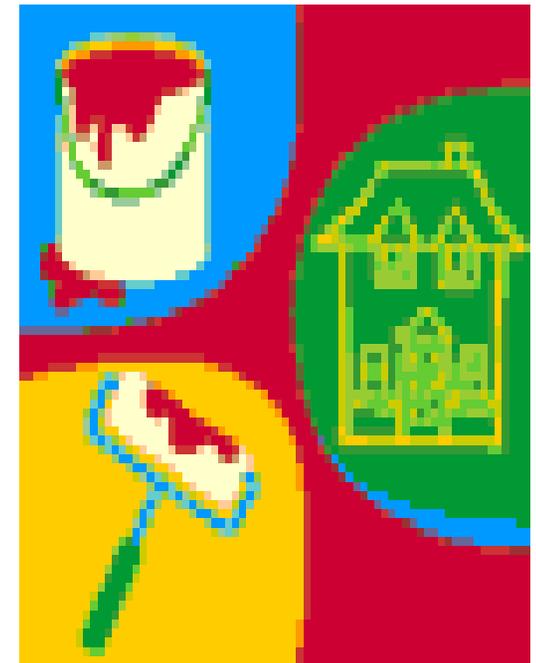


For more information, technical guidance, and application forms, please contact the Lead-based Paint Program at

EPD Lead-Based Paint & Asbestos Program
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LEAD-BASED PAINT ACTIVITIES IN GEORGIA



*A Brief Regulatory Overview
for Owners, Contractors, and
Lead Firms*

The Lead Problem

According to medical studies, exposure to even small amounts of lead can be dangerous, especially for children six years of age and younger. Even in low levels in small children, lead can cause damage to the brain, central nervous system, hearing, and kidneys, and can also cause behavior and learning problems and slowed growth. Exposure to high levels of lead can be fatal.

Lead products can be found on the inside and outside of homes and buildings. Some water pipes and supply lines in older homes were made with lead, and in both older and newer homes lead solder was used in copper piping. The soil near heavily-used roads and streets may contain lead as a result of past use of lead in gasoline, and lead may also be present in the soil adjacent to structures painted with lead-based exterior paint. Certain hobbies and industries use lead (car battery manufacturing, reloading ammunition, making stained glass windows, etc.). The glazes and paints on imported toys, dishes, and pottery can contain lead. Even canned food produced outside the United States can be a problem, since the cans frequently contain lead solder.

But by far the most common household lead hazards come from deteriorated lead-based paint and lead dust. Homes built prior to a ban on lead in residential paint by the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1978 are of particular concern.

Georgia Lead Rules

Although there are temporary controls that homeowners can utilize to reduce the risk of exposure, the only permanent method to prevent exposure to lead hazards is to remove or 'abate' those building components found to contain lead-based paint, and to perhaps even remove any lead-contaminated soil surrounding the building.

Unfortunately, abatement that is performed incorrectly can actually increase the potential for exposure by releasing and spreading lead dust while the work is being performed. The need for trained personnel to determine the presence or absence of lead and to conduct safe abatement procedures led to the birth of the lead-based paint abatement industry, which encompasses accredited lead training providers and certified abatement firms, lead-based paint inspectors, risk assessors, project designers, project supervisors, and abatement workers.

Because of the importance of ensuring this industry performs according to federal and acceptable standards, the Georgia General Assembly passed the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1994. The Act designated the Board of Natural Resources as the state agency responsible for generating and enforcing Rules and standards for lead training, inspection, and the lead abatement industry in Georgia.

Certification Process

A study concluded in 2000 estimated that over 38 million housing units in the United States contained lead-based paint. The lead-based paint abatement industry remains very active in the State of Georgia. Many contractors express an interest in joining this thriving industry, but first they must meet or exceed the requirements of the EPD Lead Rule, which was established in 1998. Below is a brief outline of the necessary steps to engage in lead abatement activities in Georgia:

1 – Submit a completed Lead Firm application, disclosure statement, and certification fee on forms provided by the Lead-Based Paint & Asbestos Program.

2 – Employ at least one certified lead abatement supervisor. This supervisor must be present at all times on each lead abatement project.

3 – Train and certify all other persons performing lead-based paint activities on each project. They must be trained and certified as lead-workers, at a minimum.

Lead inspectors, risk assessors and project designers must also take accredited training, pass a third party exam, become certified by the State of Georgia, and be employed by a certified lead firm.