State of Georgia
Environmental Protection Division
Lead-Based Paint & Asbestos Program

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Program
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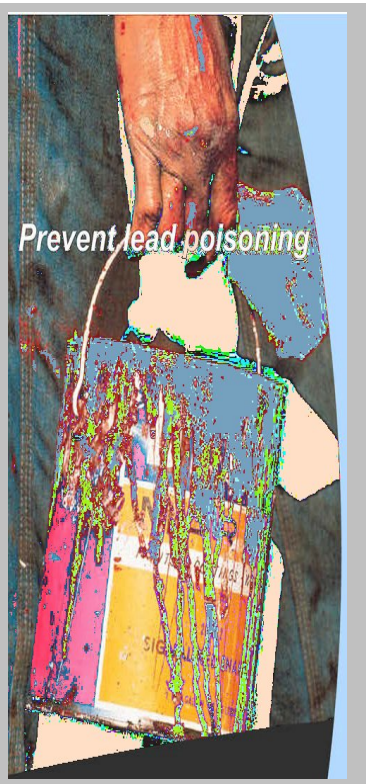

If you own property built before 1978, here are

6 Good Reasons Why You Need to Hire a Lead-Safe Contractor

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) enforces the Lead Renovation, Repair & Painting **(RRP)** Rule under authorization from federal EPA.

Homes and other structures built before 1978 often contain lead paint and coatings. If your contractor or employees do not follow lead-safe work practices in doing renovation, repairs or painting that disturbs lead paint, lead-containing dust is produced. Exposure to lead dust has been shown to be a significant health risk for both children and adults.

Lead RRP regulations apply to anyone who is paid to do work that disturbs more than threshold quantities of paint in or on homes, schools, or childcare facilities built before 1978.

This group includes

- Painters
- Renovation & Remodeling Contractors
- Electricians
- Plumbers
- HVAC Contractors
- Maintenance Workers
- Landlords

Persons performing RRP work must use lead-safe work practices and provide owners and tenants with lead hazard information.

Prevent Lead Poisoning

If your home was built before 1978, you should hire a certified RRP contractor because……..

1. **You'll protect your property value.**

Allowing lead dust or paint chips to get on your property is a violation of the Georgia "open dumping" rule and can lead to a lead-hazard with significant ongoing financial consequences, including clean-up costs and reduced property value.

2. **You'll protect children's health.**

The Georgia RRP Rules are intended to protect residents, renters, visitors, and neighbors, especially young children and unborn children, from lead poisoning. Lead harms a child's developing brain and nerve system. It can cause permanent learning, behavior and medical problems.

3. **You'll protect your health.**

Lead can also cause health problems in adults. It can raise blood pressure (and the risk of a heart attack or stroke). It can decrease brain functions (making it more difficult to think, learn and remember). Lead can also increase the risk of miscarriage and can cause impotence.

4. **You'll maintain the safety of your home.**

Contractors and employees certified for RRP activities are trained to avoid creating lead hazards in your home. To become certified, the supervisor must take an eight-hour course. This course teaches them how to:

- Test to see if the paint contains lead
- Train others who work for the contractor or owner
- Set up a work space to prevent the spread of lead dust
- Clean up safely after the work is completed
- Check the work to make sure that no lead dust remains

5. **A contractor who has made the effort to become certified by the Georgia EPD demonstrates professional responsibility.**

A contractor who cares about your family's and his employees' safety is an asset to any job.

6. **It's been the law since April 22, 2010 and is being enforced.**

A contractor violating the Georgia Lead RRP Rules is subject to actions up to and including monetary penalties.

What about the cost?

A contractor who works lead-safe may charge a bit more for the job. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates and experience shows that these lead-safety requirements will add a relatively small amount to the cost of most jobs. The additional costs cover some materials (such as plastic sheeting to prevent lead dust from spreading and some extra time to set up, work and clean up safely. But careful contractors already spend time and money to complete a job safely and well; the RRP Rules simply make sure their methods are lead-safe. ***Keep in mind: The cost is truly minor in comparison to the cost and heartache of poisoning a child, family member, yourself, or even a pet, then being stuck with clean-up costs and reduced property value.***

To locate a listing of Georgia certified Renovation contractors go to ***www.gaepd.org***,
Click "Land" then "Lead-Based Paint Program."

Before beginning work, your contractor must give you a pamphlet entitled *Renovate Right*

To make sure that your contractor is trained in lead safety, ask to see their RRP certifications. To learn more, visit the Georgia EPD website:

www.gaepd.org, click "Land" then "Lead-Based Paint Program.."