



### General

- All interior and exterior paint in campus buildings are assumed to contain lead unless testing indicates otherwise
- Exceptions
  - Surfaces in buildings constructed after 1978
  - Surfaces completely remodeled since 1978
  - Surfaces where the first paint was applied after 1978 (e.g., previously varnished surfaces getting painted)
- Lead was removed from paint used for typical building surfaces in 1978

### Survey

Contact EH&S prior to any painting work that is likely to involve scraping or sanding and request a lead survey.

### Renovation, Remodeling, Painting

- OR-OSHA and DEQ rules stipulate the personnel, building, and environmental protection that must be in place when working with paint that contains lead
- For child-occupied facilities built before 1978, testing must be done prior to maintenance activities that disturb lead-containing paint. Contact EH&S for more information.

### Removal Options

- Building components covered with lead based paint can be addressed by several different methods
  1. Remove components and replace with new
  2. Remove components and strip paint at a remote location
  3. Encapsulate (cover with another material)
  4. Remove paint in place
    - Chemical methods (lye based, non-chlorinated solvent based, methylene chloride based)
    - Mechanical methods
  5. Hand sanding or scraping
  6. Power tool sanding with dust collection system
  7. Pressure washing

### Health and Disposal Issues

#### **Options 1&2: Remove components and EITHER replace with new OR take to a remote location to strip paint**

- Monitor removal process to determine the amount of lead released to the air. Until air-borne lead levels associated with specific tasks are known, use personal protective equipment:
  - coveralls (disposable or washable);
  - gloves;
  - respirator--half-face with HEPA cartridges--fit-tested by EH&S.
- Wash hands before leaving job site.
- Wet-wipe or HEPA-vacuum dust from surfaces until wipe-test sampling reveals low lead levels are associated with removal tasks.
- Dispose of painted components as construction debris, if paint will not be stripped.
- Paint stripping area will either utilize chemical or mechanical methods, and will need to address the hazards as in the appropriate section below.
- Dispose of paint residue waste as hazardous waste.

**Contact EHS:**  
[ehs@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ehs@oregonstate.edu)  
[ehs.oregonstate.edu/](http://ehs.oregonstate.edu/)  
 541 • 737 • 2273

### **Option 3: Encapsulate (cover with another material)**

- Surface must be covered with an appropriate encapsulant, which does NOT include ordinary wallpaper or paint; walls should be covered with new sealed components (e.g., sheetrock or plywood).
- Trim can be covered with chemical encapsulants, but may require surface preparation to receive those anyway.

### **Option 4: Remove paint in place - chemical methods - LYE**

- Air-borne lead levels are not expected to be high, but the process must be monitored until air-borne lead levels are known.
- Adequate skin and eye protection must be worn to protect against the caustic nature of lye. This would entail chemical splash goggles, latex or nitrile gloves, long sleeves. A suitable eyewash should be readily available.
- Wear respiratory protection if it is likely aerosols could be generated above the permissible exposure limit for sodium hydroxide; spray application would generate aerosols.
- The surface may require neutralization prior to resurfacing, based on the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Dispose of waste paint sludge as hazardous waste.

### **Option 5: Remove paint in place - chemical methods (non-chlorinated solvents or methylene chloride)**

- Air-borne lead levels are not expected to be high, UNLESS the material is pressure-washed off the surface, but the process must be monitored until air-borne lead levels are known.
- Wear adequate skin, eye and respiratory protection (half mask chemical cartridges a minimum) to protect against the solvent.
- Provide adequate ventilation to maintain levels of solvent below appropriate flammability levels, minimize worker exposure, and prevent solvent vapors from entering occupied areas of the building.
- Protect nearby painted surfaces.
- Dispose of waste paint sludge as hazardous waste.

### **Option 6: Remove paint in place - mechanical methods (hand sanding/scraping, or power-tool sanding WITH dust collection system)**

- Workers need to be trained in lead hazards using appendices [A & B of the OR-OSHA lead in construction code](#) (starting at page 123). Contact EH&S.
- Power tool dust collection system must have HEPA efficiency.
- Until long-term air-monitoring shows otherwise, these processes are assumed to produce airborne levels of lead which require the following:
  - baseline blood lead levels for each worker
  - respirator--half-face, with HEPA cartridges--issued and fit-tested by EH&S;
  - disposable coveralls (non-disposable coveralls may be substituted if certain precautions are taken in storage and laundering);
  - gloves, hats, and disposable shoe covers.
  - clean change area for removal of protective clothing before leaving work site, with separate storage facilities for work clothing and street clothes.
- Wash hands before leaving job site.
- Work space where paint is being removed will be restricted to employees removing the paint. No other employees will be allowed into the area until it is thoroughly cleaned. Signs may need to be posted.
- HEPA vacuum all visible dust from surfaces after completion of job.
- Food and tobacco products will not be allowed to be present in the work areas.
- Ground must be protected from falling paint chips with 6 mil plastic sheeting.
- Chips and sanding debris must be separated from plastic, collected, and disposed as hazardous waste

### **Option 7: Remove paint in place - pressure washing**

- For outdoor projects only
- Air monitoring should be performed to demonstrate lead air quantity is below level of concern.
- Wash water which is removing lead paint must be collected, directed to sanitary sewer.
  - Disposal of lead-containing water may require discharge permit from City of Corvallis.
  - Before disposal, a sample of water must be tested for lead content and reported to the City sewage treatment plant.
  - Water which is merely washing the surface of dirt can be treated differently.
- Lead chips need to be separated from water, collected and disposed as hazardous waste.

**Acknowledge that you've read and understand this Safety Instruction by completing the [Qualtrics survey](#).**