

Lead-Based Paint

Like asbestos, lead-based paint is a remarkable product because it dried quickly, maintains a fresh appearance, helps prevent corrosion, and can withstand the elements of extreme weather. Also like asbestos, lead-based paint is known to cause serious health problems including kidney damage, nervous system disorders, and reproductive problems in men and women alike. Lead exposure in children is the greatest concern because lead is sweet tasting, making it very enticing for children to put lead containing materials into their mouths.

Prior to 1978 lead based paint was commonly used on toys, cribs, walls, window sills, and furniture. In 1978 the EPA gave a mandate that lead was no longer allowed to be used in the manufacturing of USA made products. When in good condition and left undisturbed Lead containing products are the least harmful.

Once Lead-based paint starts flaking off or becomes regularly disturbed the lead in the paint can be inhaled or absorbed into skin. Once the lead enters the blood stream is when health problems can occur. It is important to know where any lead based paint is located in the home, place of business, or any buildings that children regularly occupy. Because of its health effects it is important to allow only EICS-trained and licensed lead inspectors/assessors, and contractors disturb lead-based paint.