

DON'T SPREAD LEAD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Greensboro has wonderful neighborhoods with older homes contributing tremendous character to our community and providing very special places to live. But older homes often have lead based paints under the more recent layers of paint and that means that renovations and maintenance usually disturbs the paint, releasing the lead dust into the air and onto floors, yards, and children's toys. The more that all of us can do to get older homes repaired, the more likely that people can be unintentionally exposing children to the risk of lead poisoning if they don't know about lead. Lead Safe Work Practices are techniques to control the lead dust in paint preparation or other repair projects. Greensboro Housing Coalition is making these packets available when property owners or contractors apply for renovation or repair-to-standard permits on homes built before 1978.

You can protect your family, neighbors, and tenants from lead hazards by letting others know:
DON'T SPREAD LEAD.

1. Become familiar with lead safe work practices through reviewing a short booklet and video called "Don't Spread Lead", so that you can recognize the safe—and unsafe—ways to handle surfaces painted with lead paint. Watch the video on the Internet at http://douglas-sarpy.unl.edu/eh/indoor_lead.shtml or call 691-9521 to receive a CD.
2. If you are doing the work yourself, take the steps shown in the video, using plastic, duct tape, spray bottles, safety glasses, masks, gloves, and shoe covers. Greensboro Housing Coalition has a HEPA vacuum cleaner with lead dust filter that you can borrow. Greensboro Housing Coalition will offer free clearance testing to check for residual lead dust after you have thoroughly cleaned up from working on the home.
3. If you are selecting painters or repair workers to work on your home or rental properties, ask them about how they handle lead paint risks. If they are not aware of the preparation and clean-up steps in "Don't Spread Lead" materials, encourage them to study the video and booklet or look for another contractor if they are unwilling to follow the safety steps. Guilford County Health Department also provides one-day classes in Lead Safe Work Practices; call 641-3771 for schedules.
4. Discuss Lead Safe Work Practices in your neighborhood association meetings if there are older homes in your neighborhood so that other homeowners and rental property owners will be safe; lead dust can easily blow from one house to another, contaminating *your* home too.
5. Tell neighbors about "Don't Spread Lead" information packets if they are considering repainting older homes or doing extensive renovations. Call Greensboro Housing Coalition and we can provide one to your neighbors if they have not received one with their building permit.

Young children are at special risk of lead poisoning because of their developmental stage, so Guilford County Health Department provides free blood tests to children under 6; no appointments are needed at 1100 E. Wendover Ave. When the lead level in their blood indicates that they are at risk, the Health Department checks every source of possible exposure to lead dust, such as their homes, places they play outside, and day care centers. Lead poisoning can cause life-long learning and behavior problems as well as other health disorders. Don't spread lead—no one wants to hurt a child.

You can be a partner in making housing safe for your family, neighbors, and tenants. For more information, call: Beth McKee-Huger 691-9521 or Willena Cannon 987-3952.