

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

WATCH OUT FOR LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING

NOTIFICATION

TO: PURCHASERS AND TENANTS OF LOWER INCOME PUBLIC HOUSING
CONSTRUCTED BEFORE 1978

This building was constructed before 1978. There is a possibility that most of the paint in this building contains lead-based paint.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING
LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING

1. Sources of Lead-Based Paint

The interiors of older homes and apartments often have layers of lead-based paint on the walls, ceilings, window sills, doors and door frames. Lead-based paint and primers (under-coats of paint) may also have been used on outside porches, railings, garages, fire escapes and lamp posts. When the paint chips, flakes or peels off, there may be a real danger for babies and young children. Children could eat paint chips or chew on painted railings, window sills or other items when parents are not around. Children could also swallow lead even if they do not specifically eat paint chips. For example, when children play in an area where there are loose paint chips or dust particles containing lead, they could get these particles on their hands, put their hands into their mouths, and swallow a dangerous amount of lead.

2. Symptoms of Lead-Based Paint Poisoning

Has your child been especially cranky? Is he or she eating normally? Does your child have stomachaches or is he or she vomiting? Does he or she complain about headaches? Is your child unwilling to play? These may be signs of lead poisoning. Many times there are no signs or symptoms at all. Lead poisoning can eventually cause mental retardation, blindness and even death.

3. Advisability and Availability of Blood Lead Level Screening

Many buildings built prior to 1978 contain high levels of lead in the paint. Since you live in a building that was built before 1978 you should take your child to the doctor or clinic for blood lead level testing. If the test shows that your child has an elevated blood lead level, treatment is available. Contact your doctor or local health department for help or

more information. Lead screening and treatment are available through the Medicaid Program for those who are eligible.

Inform other family members and babysitters of the dangers of lead poisoning. You can safeguard your child from lead poisoning by preventing him or her from eating paint that may contain lead.

4. PHA Responsibilities

- a. Your housing authority is required to remove flaking, peeling, cracking, chipping paint from your unit when it is found during unit inspections and at unit turnover. The housing agency is also required to remove flaking, peeling paint as soon as possible after you notify them of the condition.
- b. When you notify your housing agency that your child has a confirmed elevated blood lead level, the housing authority is required to test your unit for lead-based paint hazards within 5 calendar days. The housing agency is also required to remove all of the lead-based paint hazards found in your unit within 14 calendar days after positive testing. Your housing agency may choose to transfer or assign you and your family to (a) a previously tested unit which was found to be free of lead-based paint hazards, or (b) a unit where lead-based paint hazards have been removed, or (c) a unit which was built after 1978.

5. Tenant and Homebuyer Responsibilities

a. Notify PHA of Elevated Blood Lead Levels

As applicants, tenants and homebuyers of lower income public housing, you are advised to contact your doctor or local clinic to have your children under 7 years of age tested for an elevated blood lead level. If your child is identified as having an elevated blood lead level, you should notify the housing authority immediately of the condition so that it may take the necessary steps to test your unit for lead-based paint hazards and remove those hazards where they are found.

b. Notify PHA of Defective Paint

Young children sometimes put paint chips in their mouths, or such their fingers after playing on the floor where paint chips may get on their hands. If the unit in which you live has flaking, cracking, chipping, loose or peeling paint you should notify the management office immediately. The housing authority is responsible for removing flaking, cracking, chipping, loose and peeling paint from your unit. However, if the housing authority is unable to remove the defective paint from your unit immediately, then there are some things you can do to protect your child:

- (i) Cover all furniture and appliances;
- (ii) Get a broom or stiff brush and remove the loose pieces of paint from walls, woodwork, window wells and ceilings. Try to avoid making a lot of dust as you clean up the paint;
- (iii) Sweep up all pieces of paint and plaster and put them in a paper bag or wrap them in newspaper. Put these packages in the trash can. **DO NOT BURN THEM**;
- (iv) Do not leave paint chips on the floor or in the window wells. Damp mop floors and window sills in and around the work area to remove all dust and paint particles. Keeping these areas clear of paint chips, dust and dirt is easy and very important; and
- (v) Do not allow loose paint to remain within your children's reach since children any pick loose paint off the lower part of the wall and put it in their mouths.

6. Homeowner Maintenance and Treatment of Defective Lead-Based Paint Hazards

If you are a Homeowner in the Public Housing Homeownership Program, you should take the necessary steps to keep your home in good shape. Water leaks from faulty plumbing, defective roofs and exterior holes or breaks may admit rain and dampness into the interior of your home. These conditions can damage walls and ceilings and cause paint to peel, crack or flake. These conditions should be corrected immediately. Before repainting, all surfaces that are peeling, cracking, chipping or loose should be thoroughly cleaned by scraping or brushing the loose paint from the surface, wet scrubbing the area with a strong detergent (high phosphate type if permitted by state or local laws), and then repainting with two (2) coats of non leaded paint. Instead of scraping and repainting, the surface may be covered with other material such as gypsum wallboard, or paneling. These coverings are intended to be permanent barriers that will prevent any future access to lead-based paint hazards.

Beware that when lead-based paint is removed by scraping or sanding, a dust is created, which may be hazardous. The dust can enter the body by either breathing or swallowing it. The use of heat or paint removers could create a vapor or fume which may cause poisoning if inhaled over a long period of time. The removal of lead-based paint should take place when there are not children and pregnant women on the premises.

SIMPLY WASHING AND PAINTING OVER DEFECTIVE LEAD-BASED PAINT SURFACES DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE HAZARD. REMEMBER THAT YOU MAY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF LEAD POISONING. YOUR ACTIONS AND AWARENESS ABOUT THE LEAD PROBLEM CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

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CERTIFICATION

I have received a copy of the NOTICE entitled "Watch Out for Lead – Based Paint Poisoning."

Print Full Name

Signature

Date