



## Painting Tips Courtesy of the City of Syracuse Lead Program

With the good weather approaching, many of us get the urge to do some painting around the house. Here are some simple tips that you can use especially if your house was built prior to 1978. A home built prior to 1978 is likely to have surfaces painted with lead-based paint. When you work on these surfaces you can be exposed to lead. Protect yourself and your family by following some simple procedures.



**DO NOT DRY SAND, SCRAPE AND/OR SANDBLAST WOOD SURFACES.** If lead paint exists, dust and chips can be a poisonous byproduct of your sanding and/or scraping. Use a “plant-mister” and wet scrape peeling and chipping paint. Place plastic sheets (poly) below **all work surfaces** to catch all of the chips, etc. It will make cleanup much easier too.



**DO NOT BURN THE PAINT OFF.** Open flames can be dangerous and can cause a fire. Also fumes from the hot paint contain lead and other volatile chemicals that are poisonous when inhaled.



**DO USE A RESPIRATOR & PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.** Get yourself a respirator with a HEPA filter. This will filter out lead dust particles out of the air you breathe. Wear overalls, hat, goggles and gloves to help keep lead dust off of you as well as keeping lead dust from being tracked into areas outside of the work site. When you're finished launder these items separately.

For more useful tips on painting and/or remodeling, ask for a free copy of the EPA booklet entitled *Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home*.

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