

## Essential Maintenance and Cleaning Practices

- 1. Perform visual examinations, both inside and outside of the unit, for deteriorating paint.**
- 2. Promptly and safely repair deteriorated paint and the cause of the deterioration.**
  - Make the surface intact by paint stabilization, enclosure, encapsulation, or removal, *using approved methods*. (See Renovate Right pamphlet)
  - Follow Essential Maintenance Practice #3 (below) when repairing the surface.
  - Diagnose and correct any physical conditions causing the paint deterioration (for example, structural and moisture problems causing substrate failure or conditions causing painted surfaces to be crushed).
  - When there is extensive paint deterioration (for example, more than five square feet per room), the procedures for dust testing after Standard Treatments apply.
- 3. Use safe work practices during work that disturbs paint that may contain lead to avoid creating Lead Based Paint (LBP) hazards.**

DO NOT use unsafe paint removal practices, including:

- Open flame burning
- Power sanding or sandblasting (unless a special vacuum attachment is used to contain dust)
- Water blasting
- Dry scraping more than a tiny surface area (for example, more than one square foot per room)

#### **4. Maintain Your Home's Condition**

It is very important to care for the lead-painted surfaces in your home. Lead-based paint in good condition is usually not harmful. If your home was built before 1978:

- Regularly check your home for chipping, peeling, or deteriorating paint, and address issues promptly without excessive sanding. If you must sand, sand the minimum area needed, wet the area first, and clean up thoroughly.
- Regularly check all painted areas that rub together or get lots of wear, like windows, doors, and stairways, for any signs of deterioration.
- Regularly check for paint chips or dust – if you see some, remove carefully with a damp paper towel and discard in the trash, then wipe the surface clean with a wet paper towel.
- Wipe down flat surfaces, like window sills, at least weekly with a damp paper towel and throw away the paper towel.
- Mop smooth floors (using a damp mop) weekly to control dust.

- Remember to test for the presence of lead and lead hazards by a lead professional – this will tell you where you must be especially careful.

**Here are more tips to help you reduce or prevent your family's exposure to lead dust. It's best to follow these steps weekly.**

### **Cleaning Uncarpeted Floors**

Do use:

- Damp mopping, with standard sponge or string type mops and an all-purpose cleaner.
- Standard vacuum cleaners if no visible dust or debris from chipping or flaking paint is present.

DO NOT USE

- Mops with a scrubber strip attached.
- Powered buffing or polishing machines, or vacuums with beater bars that may wear away the painted surface.

### **Cleaning Carpets and Rugs**

Do use

- Wet scrubbing or steam cleaning methods to remove stains.
- Standard vacuum cleaners if no visible dust or debris from chipping or flaking paint is present. Use only vacuums with HEPA filters otherwise.

DO NOT USE

- Dry sweeping of surface dust and debris.
- Shaking or beating of carpets and rugs.

### **Cleaning or Dusting Walls and other Painted Surfaces**

Do use

- Soft, dampened, disposable cloths with an all-purpose cleaner.

DO NOT USE

- Steel wool, scouring pads, and abrasive cleaners.
- Solvent cleaners that may dissolve paint.
- Excessive rubbing of spots to remove them.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOME

We **STRONGLY ADVISE** you to follow the recommendations below. Based on the work performed in your home and its condition prior to removing lead hazards, we recommend that you take the following precautions to reduce your family's exposure to lead in the future. Failure to do this may put your family at risk of lead poisoning.

1. Follow cleaning procedures in Section 4 above. It is important to contain and remove the remaining lead dust in your home's environment.
2. **Discard** ALL carpeting and rugs which retains lead dust and will continue to be a source of lead exposure.
3. **Discard or professionally clean** all draperies, curtains or other fabric window coverings. Blinds should also be cleaned, either fully submerged in the bathtub using warm water and general purpose cleaning solution or simply fill a small bowl with a mixture of one part vinegar and one part water, and then use a clean sock or microfiber cloth to dip in the bowl. Turn the blinds one way and wipe them while holding the bottom rail, then turn them the other way and clean the other side. The cleaning cloth should then be discarded.

### **4. Use Door Mats and Removing Shoes**

According to one study, use of door mats can cut toxic lead dust inside the home almost in half. Taking shoes off at the door cuts the lead dust by 60%, better than door mats. Low cost fiber and rubber "walk off mats" can be purchased at Home Depot or Lowes for less than \$20.

*I agree to follow the Essential Maintenance and Cleaning plan as listed above. I understand that not following these recommendations may put my family at risk and I may become liable for any health issues that may arise.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_