



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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New Federal Renovation, Repair and Painting Lead-Based Paint Rule Effective April 22, 2010

BISMARCK, N.D. – On April 22, 2010, the new federal renovation, remodeling and painting (RRP) rule will go into effect requiring that anyone paid to repair, remodel or paint in homes, child-care facilities and schools built before 1978 must be certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

According to the EPA, the new rule is intended to protect children from leaded dust that may result from disturbing lead-based paint. The new federal rule will require anyone paid to perform renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb paint in homes, child-care facilities and schools built before 1978 to be EPA-RRP certified and follow lead-safe work practice standards to prevent lead contamination. Common renovation activities like sanding, painting, cutting, replacing windows and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips that can be harmful to children and adults. Consumers should be aware of the new RRP rule and make sure that any contractor they hire is EPA-RRP certified. Owners conducting repairs in their own homes are not covered by this rule (unless they receive compensation, such as landlords).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 250,000 American children younger than 5 have elevated blood lead levels (greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter). Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, kidney disease, high blood pressure, miscarriage and birth defects. Exposure to lead also can cause depression and aggressive behavior. According to the CDC, there is no safe level of lead in the body.

Lead Remodelers and Renovators Certification and Refresher Course information can be found on the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead or by contacting the University of North Dakota Environmental Training Institute at www.eti.und.edu or by phone at 701.777.0384.

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

For more information about the new federal rule, contact Michelle Reichmuth, regional lead coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, at 303.312.6966 or Sandi Washek, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5188. Information also is available at www.ndhealth.gov/AQ/IAQ/LBP.

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