

LEAD: Construction and Remodeling Projects

Beginning Your Construction Project

The most important part of your construction project is to protect yourself and your family from lead exposure. Asarco, Hydrometrics, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Lewis and Clark County Health Department's Lead Education and Abatement Program have worked together in remediating over 500 yards in East Helena. Realizing that lead was once a prevalent metal in your environment will help you reduce your exposure and minimize recontamination. Great strides have been taken to reduce the amount of lead in East Helena, but lead may still be found:

- ✓ Under the clean soil in remediated yards
- ✓ On shingles, under carpets and in attics from historical lead emissions
- ✓ In yards which have not been remediated
- ✓ In homes built prior to 1978 which may contain lead-based paint

Please protect your family and prevent recontamination by following these simple guidelines

Safety Tips Before You Dig

- ✓ Call the Underground Line Locating number 1-800-424-5555
- ✓ Call the Lead Program at 457-8583 for information regarding your yard's remediation and soil sampling history
- ✓ The Lead Program may be able to help you dispose of potentially contaminated surplus soil. Contaminated soil must be disposed of in a repository
- ✓ Minimize dust by wetting soil prior to digging and throughout excavation
- ✓ Keep children and pets out of the construction area
- ✓ Never give away or reuse surplus soils as top soil before contacting the Lead Program

Shingles, Siding and Other Exterior Components

Historic deposits of lead can accumulate on shingles, siding, and other exterior components. When removing these items place a protective barrier (i.e., tarp or plastic sheet) between the soil and the debris. After work is complete, securely wrap potentially contaminated components in plastic and dispose of them. Also, never dry scrape or power wash a home you suspect may contain lead-based paint (80% of all homes built before 1978 contain some lead-based paint). The Lead Program can test your home's paint and recommend safe abatement measures.

Worker Safety and Cleanup

- ✓ Avoid hand-to-mouth activities while working around soil and in dust
- ✓ Wear protective clothing such as overalls and boot covers
- ✓ Wash work clothing separately from other laundry
- ✓ Clean up as soon as you have completed the project or are done for the day

- ✓ Keep young children and expectant mothers away from contaminated soil and dust

Have questions? Call the Lead Program at 457-8583.