

US Environmental Protection Agency's Renovation, Repair & Painting (RRP) Rule at a Glance

About the RRP:

On March 31st, 2008, the US EPA issued a new rule requiring lead safe work practices to reduce exposure to lead hazards created by renovation, repair and painting (RRP) activities that disturb lead-based paint. The rule will address hazards created by renovation, repair and painting activities that disturb lead-based paint in "target housing" and "child-occupied facilities". The RRP rule will establish requirements for training renovators and dust sampling technicians; certifying renovators, dust sampling technicians, and renovation firms; accrediting providers of renovation and dust sampling technician training; and for renovation work practices. This rule will be enforceable in April 2010.

The RRP in Brief:

To Whom and Where does the RRP Rule apply?

The rule applies to renovations, remodeling, painting, window replacement, plumbing, electrical work, heating and air-conditioning, demolition, and jobs performed for compensation in target housing and child-occupied facilities built before January 1, 1978, and where more than 6 square feet of paint per room or 20 square feet outside will be disturbed by someone being compensated for their work; including rental property, schools and day care providers.

What does the RRP Rule require?

Contractors must give clients a pamphlet called "Renovate Right" and get a signed receipt before beginning a job. At least one RRP Certified Renovator is required at each job site. Contractors need to sign up for an EPA Accredited RRP class. Lead Abatement Supervisors and Workers who are already state certified also have to become RRP certified, but they only need to take a 1/2 day "refresher" class. In addition to individual certification, each firm, agency or non-profit must also become RRP certified. Lead Abatement firms will also have to become Certified RRP Firms if they ever do non-abatement jobs. A copy of a lead training certificate must be provided to clients. RRP Certified Renovators must train all non-certified people at the job site. Contractors who wish to do business with cities/counties receiving Federal money for housing rehabilitation must have everyone trained in the classroom. The rule requires contractors to either test all the paint they will disturb BEFORE beginning a job, or assume that it is lead-based. At the end of each job, contractors are required to do a "cleaning verification" to make sure they cleaned up properly.