



# Tips for Paint Removal

The enclosed flyer provides information on the rules that apply to renovation in general. Listed on this page are some specific tips to help ensure that paint removal projects are completed without violating any of these requirements.

- **Test before work begins.** Don't accept a job until you have seen the surface you will be working with, and have had it tested to determine whether or not the substrate material and any of the paint layers on it contain lead or asbestos. A licensed environmental laboratory or a licensed lead consultant must be used to test materials for lead. A licensed asbestos consultant must be used to test materials for asbestos. If any of the paint layers consist of lead-based paint, you must either refuse the job, or ensure that the work is done in compliance with all applicable requirements (see flyer for details). If the substrate contains asbestos (for example, plaster or Transite shingles or panel board), it must not be disturbed except by a licensed asbestos contractor.
- **Choose a paint removal method that will prevent releases.** If it is determined that lead-based paint is present, do not use sandblasting, power sanding/grinding, flame torches, or high-temperature (>700°F) heat guns to remove paint. Instead, use another method that will prevent releases of dust and paint chips, like wet scraping, or consider covering the lead paint with aluminum or vinyl siding. Preventing releases is particularly important if you are working on a residence with children under the age of six, or if the work site is adjacent to such a residence (see flyer for further information).
- **Use proper containment.** If sandblasting, power sanding/grinding, power-washing, or power-blasting is used to remove non-lead-based paint from a structure, ensure that any dust, paint chips, or blasting media are fully contained. While the exact type of containment needed may vary from job to job, it must at a minimum ensure that paint chips and dust, contaminated wastewaters, and sandblasting grit are not released inside the structure, to the ground, to the air, or to storm drains or waterways.
- **Protect yourself and your workers.** Use proper personnel protective equipment ("PPE") such as respirators, gloves, coveralls, etc. to protect you and your workers from exposure to lead, asbestos, and airborne dust. Follow OSHA rules for air monitoring, exposure control and safety (see flyer for more information on OSHA requirements).

- Properly dispose of all residues. Any paint chips, dust, sandblast grit, or contaminated wastewaters that are generated during the project must be managed and disposed of properly. In particular:
  - Paint chips and spent sandblast grit are classified as a hazardous waste if they contain lead at a concentration of over 5.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) as determined by a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure, or "TCLP" test. As such, they must be packaged and stored in compliance with state hazardous waste requirements, and shipped to a permitted hazardous waste facility by a hauler that is licensed in Connecticut to transport hazardous waste.
  - Paint chips and spent sandblast grit are not classified as hazardous waste if they contain lead at 5.0 mg/l or less. These non-hazardous wastes may be disposed of as a "special waste" at a solid waste landfill (with authorization from DEP), or hauled away by a hauler that is licensed in Connecticut to transport non-hazardous "Connecticut-regulated" wastes.
  - Contaminated wastewaters may be treated and discharged to on-site city sewer with a temporary permit from DEP. Contaminated wastewaters may not be discharged to on-site septic systems. Wastewaters generated from cleaning only (i.e., no paint removed and no chemicals used other than mild, bio-degradable cleaners or dilute bleach solution) may be discharged to the ground surface without a permit.
  - DEP has a fact sheet and a guidance booklet that provides more information on the testing and management of wastes from paint removal. For copies of these documents, call DEP's toll-free compliance assistance line at 1-888-424-4193.
- Do not use spent sandblast grit as fill. Although spent sandblast grit may be recycled using equipment that separates the paint chips and fines from the spent grit, it may not be reused as fill, buried, or dumped on the ground.

