5-1-2008

SP605-I-Lead Poisoning Prevention: What You Need to Know about Lead Inspection, Assessment and Abatement

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

Lead Poisoning Prevention:
What You Need to Know about Lead Inspection, Assessment and Abatement

Tennessee Department of Health

Adapted for Tennessee by Martha Keel, Professor and Janice McCoy, former Research Associate Family and Consumer Sciences

UT Extension

SP605-I

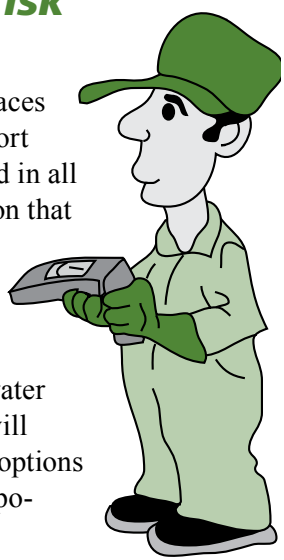
➤ What is a lead paint inspection?

A lead inspection serves to identify the presence of lead-based paint. Inspectors for this service are trained in the specific usage of x-ray fluorescence machines that can identify lead paint. The inspector should also be certified with the state. However, an inspection does not identify whether or not the paint is a lead hazard, nor does it specify the presence of dust or soil-lead hazards.

➤ What is a lead-based paint risk assessment?

Risk assessments identify lead-based paint hazards. The risk assessment report will also recommend specific measures to reduce the hazards.

➤ What are some key differences between a lead inspection and a risk assessment?



A lead inspector looks at all surfaces covered with paint. The final report provides the concentration of lead in all painted surfaces OR a certification that the property does not contain lead-based paint. However, a risk assessment will look primarily at deteriorated paint and will also analyze dust, soil and water (optional). The risk assessment will also provide lead-hazard control options on how to get rid of, or avoid, exposure to lead.

➤ *What is lead abatement?*

Lead abatement is designed to permanently control exposure to lead-based paint. In the process of lead abatement, paint might be removed or sealed off with an approved product. Bare soil that is lead-contaminated can be removed or covered. Sometimes it is necessary to provide temporary measures to control lead hazards until permanent action can be taken. These are referred to as "interim controls." However, it is important to take permanent action as soon as possible.

Lead Testing at 1 and 2...
It's the Thing to Do
TENNESSEE CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

SP605-I 3M 5/08(Rep) R12-5310-118-040-08 08-0218