

Making Homes Lead-Safe

Professional Lead Paint Services

By

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Testing Homes for Lead-based Paint Hazards

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has two lead risk assessors certified by the Ohio Department of Health. These certified professionals have undergone approved training and have met the standards of education, knowledge and experience to test for lead-paint hazards in homes and recommend ways of getting rid of those hazards. Our lead risk assessors provide risk assessments or lead paint inspections and dust-wipe samplings. In addition, both MORPC lead risk assessors are experienced housing rehabilitations specialists.

MORPC's Lead Paint Treatments Services include:

- **Inspect and Test Single Family Homes and Multifamily Units:** Includes testing all applicable surfaces in the home with an XRF machine. All information from the XRF machine is downloaded into a computer, and a full report is prepared and sent to the property owner.
- **Soil and Dust Wipe Sampling and Laboratory Analysis:** This includes taking dust wipe samples from floors, window sills and other applicable painted surfaces. Samples are then sent to a certified lab via overnight service for analysis and interpreting results.
- **Clearance Reports:** This involves taking wipe samplings, obtaining and interpreting lab results, and preparing a written clearance report.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is an association of local governments providing planning, programs and services for the region.

Lead as a Poison

Lead has been used in a variety of products for centuries. However, it is poisonous to humans and can damage the brain, blood cells, and the nervous system. People take in lead by breathing it as fumes or dust or by ingesting it.

Lead is particularly toxic to children and the unborn. Children can get lead dust on their hands or playthings and then put them in their mouth. Children exposed to lead can have learning and behavior problems. It only takes a minute amount of lead dust to harm a child.

Lead in the Home

One of the most common places to find lead in the home is from paint and dust.

Paint: Lead in house paint was restricted in 1978. Residences built before then were often painted with lead-based paint. In general, the older the structure, the greater the chance that lead is in the paint. This is especially true of houses and multifamily units built before 1950.

Dust: Whenever lead-based paint is disturbed, such as during remodeling, lead dust may be created. Lead dust also comes from impact surfaces, weathering and normal wear and tear. Lead dust can be spread around easily and can cause lead poisoning if it is inhaled or gets on food, hands, toys, or other items that may get into the mouth. Children, especially toddlers, are at high risk.

Lead-Safe Remodeling: When lead paint is disturbed, it may create a health hazard. Be sure that all remodeling and "fix-up" work are done in a "lead safe" way. Never dry sand, saw, or scrape (especially with power equipment) on lead-based paint.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to schedule a visit with a MORPC lead risk assessor, please contact Marvin Rudd (mrudd@morpc.org) or Kathy Werkmeister (kwerkmeister@morpc.org)

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