

## RRP – New EPA Certification Requirements for Renovators and Other Contractors

Children under six are highly susceptible to lead poisoning, and the EPA has new regulations requiring the certification of workers removing or disturbing lead-based painted surfaces, effective in April 2010. The new regulations covering Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) require contractors disturbing more than six square feet of paint indoors or 20 square feet outdoors in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities to be certified. The child-occupied facilities include homes, apartments, child care centers and kindergartens.

EPA approved training providers offer a day-long training for renovators and others who may disturb lead-based paint. The certification is new, and it's primary purpose is to protect kids from being poisoned. After they have an employee complete the training class, contracting firms must apply for an EPA certification and pay a fee of \$300, renewing it every five years.

The class is geared to the needs of plumbers, electricians, HVAC repairmen, renovators and painters. Buildings can be exempted if they are tested by a certified lead inspector or risk assessor and found to be free of lead paint. The firms must assign one certified renovator to each jobsite where pre-1978 painted surfaces are being disturbed.

At present, the EPA rules have an owner "opt-out" that allows homeowners to choose to be exempt from having certified contractors work in their homes. This exemption was challenged by a recent court petition and the EPA has agreed to remove it prior to the April 2010 effective date of the new regulations.

Contractors must hand out the new RENOVATE RIGHT pamphlet from the EPA to building occupants and facility owners prior to starting their renovations. They must obtain an acknowledgement signature from the owner and occupant and keep copies of the notification acknowledgements for three years. They are trained on how to use a test kit prior to renovation to determine whether or not lead is present.

Contractors must also follow specific work practices, such as containment, dust minimization and cleanup. The use of open-flame burning and power tools is prohibited without HEPA exhaust control. To ensure the work area is cleaned correctly, they must perform a cleaning verification procedure or have the area tested with dust wipes following the completion of the work.

For more information about the rule or to find a list of EPA accredited training providers, go to [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

*This flyer contains excerpts from an article by Jenny Munro published in The Greenville News on November 15, 2009. Used by permission.*

