

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

PROPER DISPOSAL OF LEAD-BASED PAINT COATED DEBRIS AND PAINT CHIPS

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Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide assistance to Sacramento County residents and businesses on proper management and disposal of lead-based paint (LBP) coated debris and paint chips.

Issue

Improper disposal of LBP debris and paint chips can create a threat to public health and the environment. It is important to note that exposure to lead dust may cause lead poisoning which is especially harmful to young children. When paint containing lead peels, flakes and crumbles away from building material, it must be managed properly. Prior to 1978, LBP was used extensively in both commercial and residential building industries.

What This Means To You

You can manage LBP construction waste using methods to prevent contamination. It is important to know:

- LBP chips and dust that have separated (for example, flaked or peeled away) from building materials are considered a hazardous waste if the lead levels are above 1,000 parts per million (ppm) total lead.
- Construction waste containing firmly attached well-bonded LBP that is not flaking, peeling and cracking, is generally considered non-hazardous and may be discarded as rubbish or trash.

Proper Disposal

Household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities (listed below) provide disposal options for residential and business customers with relatively small amounts (125 pounds or less) of LBP chips or dust exceeding 1,000 ppm total lead.

Sacramento County North Area Transfer Station (NATS)

4450 Roseville Road, Sacramento

Residential waste (916) 481-4316

Commercial/Business (916) 481-4316 – Call before you bring LBP.**Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station (RTS)**

8491 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento

Residential (916) 379-0500

Commercial/Business (916) 379-0500 ext 209 – Call before you bring LBP.

Disposal Costs

Residents may dispose of up to 125 pounds per visit normally free of charge.
 Businesses qualifying as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs) may dispose of up to 220 pounds per month. A CESQG produces less than 220 pounds or 27 gallons of hazardous waste per month facility-wide. **There is a disposal fee for CESQGs; you must call NATS OR RTS prior to bringing LBP.** Non-CESQG businesses must manage LBP as hazardous waste and may not use HHW facilities as a disposal option.

Common Questions and Answers

Are contractors working on residential remodeling projects allowed to use HHW facilities for disposal of LBP chips?

Businesses that qualify as CESQGs (see section on Disposal Costs) may bring LBP to NATS and RTS as long as quantities are within allowable limits.

How do I test to determine if the lead levels are above 1,000 ppm?

Samples of paint chips may be taken to any State-Certified Environmental Laboratory for analysis to determine if total lead is above 1,000 ppm. Call (916) 875-8550 to obtain the list of State-Certified Environmental Laboratories.

How do I find Certified Lead Professionals for my home?

To obtain a list of Department of Health Services Certified Lead Professionals who are trained to do lead-safe work in your home, either call 1-800-597-LEAD or go to www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead.

Additional Information

How do I safely remove LBP from a wall area?

Cover the floor with plastic sheeting. If outdoors, choose a day with little or no wind. Dampen surface to be scraped by misting with water, and allow chips to fall onto plastic sheeting. Roll up sheeting with the chips, place in a plastic bag and secure. Dispose of the bag at NATS or RTS (locations are on page 1).

After scraping, wash surfaces using a wet cloth and household cleaner. Waste water may be poured into a toilet or sink connected to a sanitary sewer. Never dry sand/scrape, sandblast, or remove LBP without containment of the work area. Never water-blast old painted surfaces or allow wash water to contaminate soil or enter the storm drain system. Never use a leaf blower to clean up lead-contaminated dust or debris. Additional information is available at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/html/materials.html>, click on “Learn how to do lead-safe home repairs and remodeling” (it is also available in Spanish).

For additional information on lead safe remodeling, contact the National Lead Hotline at (800) 424-LEAD, or go to www.epa.gov/lead/nlic.htm. In Sacramento County call (916) 875-8448.

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