

# FACT SHEET

## Where can I get Information about Lead-Based Paint and Lead Poisoning?



Lead poison hazards have long been a problem in the state of Louisiana, particularly for children under the age of six (6) years. Recent research has shown that lead is toxic in children at extremely low levels (10-15 µg/dl). The routes of entry of lead into the body are ingestion (eating paint chips or soil) or inhalation of lead dust. The U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control (USOPH/CDC) rated lead poisoning as the most common devastating environmental disease of young children under the age of six (6) years.

Lead-based paint was used extensively in public facilities, private homes, and child-occupied buildings before its use was banned by the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) in 1978. Of the 77 million homes built before 1980, about 57 million, or 75% have been painted with lead-based paint.

In response to this serious public health problem, in 1993, the Louisiana Legislature mandated the Department of Environmental Quality/Air Permits/Manufacturing Section/Asbestos & Lead Group to develop and implement a program to address lead hazards associated with lead-based paint. The LDEQ program, which began in 1994, has the following two-fold purpose:

1. To establish and implement rules that govern lead-based paint activities; and
2. To establish and implement a public outreach program in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHH), the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES), and other state and local entities that will inform the citizens of Louisiana of lead-based paint hazards.

The following table lists state agencies involved in various lead-based paint programs.

AGENCY	ROLE	CONTACT PERSON(S)	PHONE NUMBER
LDEQ, OES, Permit Support Services Division, Accreditations and Notifications Section	Compliance and Public Outreach	Robert Williamson	(225) 219-3300
LCES	Information/Public Outreach	Parish extension home economist	Check your local parish government listing under Extension Service-LSU Agricultural Center
DHH/Office of Public Health/CLPPP	Childhood Lead Poisoning/Steps to take after an elevated blood lead level has been determined in a child	Colleen Clarke  Cheryl Harris	504-219-4416  504-219-4411
DHH/Office of Public Health/ Environmental Epidemiology & Toxic/Heavy Metal Surveillance Program	Adult lead poisoning-Tracking and investigation of elevated adult blood lead cases	Michelle Lackovic	(504) 219-4518

If you are living in a pre-1978 home and plan to do any remodeling or refinishing, please read the EPA pamphlet “Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home” (EPA 747-R-94-0002 4/94), which can be found by calling the National Center for Healthy Homes [www.centerforhealthyhousing.com](http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.com); EPA [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) National Lead information 1-800-424-lead; HUD U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (202) 755-1785; or Hearing Impaired Federal Information Relay Service 1-800-877-8339. It explains about pre-testing, proper equipment use, safe work practices, and cleanup. The LCES also has an excellent fact sheet, “Removing Lead-based Paint in Homes” (pub. 2564), available from the parish office of the Cooperative Extension Service.