

Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP)

What the public needs to know:

Lead-based paint (LBP) hasn't gone away. It is still present in the lives of children and adults across the U.S. It is estimated that more than a million children are currently affected by exposure to LBP and/or LBP dust. Exposure to lead, either by exposure to LBP and/or LBP dust, or by exposure to other lead-containing substances or activities, has been proven to affect virtually every system in the human body.

- Children: The most concerning effects of lead exposure for children are the well-documented, long-term, negative developmental consequences such as lower intelligence, behavioral problems and learning disabilities. Other adverse effects are also extremely concerning, such as decreased growth, negative effects on the kidneys and hearing and balance impairment.
- Pregnant women: Lead exposure can be harmful, even fatal, to a developing fetus.
- All adults: Exposure to lead can cause a myriad of health concerns for adults as well, including negative neurological effects, reduced fertility, hypertension and acute or chronic kidney impairment.

You can reduce the risk of lead exposure by reducing the risk that people in your home come into contact with LBP and/or LBP dust. **If your house was built prior to 1978, LBP is likely present.** Therefore, according to the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP), you must hire LBP certified individuals and an LBP certified firm to do any renovation, repair, or painting work in your home that is likely to disturb more than six square feet of painted surface. This will ensure that any LBP that is present is properly handled and any lead hazard is eliminated.

Apartment and condominium dwellers can also insist on the use of certified individuals and a certified firm if the residential building was constructed prior to 1978. Schools, day care centers and other places where children spend time, that were built prior to 1978, are also covered by the RRP rule, and thus certified individuals and a certified firm must be used to perform renovation work at those facilities as well.

As of March 2013, DEQ has assumed responsibility for implementing the RRP rule for Oklahoma. In addition, DEQ provides information, oversees accreditation of training programs, regulates the certifications of individuals and firms, and enforces all work practice standards.



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What contractors need to know:

The RRP rule sets requirements for renovation, repair or painting work conducted in target housing and child-occupied facilities where surfaces with LBP might be disturbed (see Title 40, Part 745 in the Code of Federal Regulations for definitions and applicability). It requires certification of individual contractors performing renovation work for compensation, certification for companies performing renovation work for compensation, and approved training and/or certification for employees of those companies.

Affected companies and contractors can include, but are not limited to, renovators, electricians, HVAC specialists, plumbers, painters and maintenance staff who disrupt more than six square feet of lead paint in homes, schools, day care centers or other places where children spend time and were built prior to 1978.

Prior to March of 2013, the RRP rule was administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, now that DEQ has assumed responsibility for the RRP rule, individuals offering to perform renovation work that have not been previously certified, and all companies offering to perform renovation work, are required to get certified through/register with DEQ instead of with EPA. DEQ is able to provide faster and more responsive LBP services than EPA was able to provide because DEQ has a state-wide local presence and can offer trained assistance from the multiple employees in its Lead-Based Paint Program. If problems occur, DEQ also staffs a 24-hour toll-free environmental complaint line at 1-800-522-0206.

For more information, please contact DEQ's Lead-Based Paint Program at 405-702-4100.

<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/aqdnew/lbp/index.htm>