

Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

a partner of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency

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100 DAYS AND COUNTING...ARE YOU READY?

The EPA's new Renovation, Repair & Painting (RRP) lead law goes into effect on April 22, 2010

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—You've got 100 days until the [Environmental Protection Agency's \(EPA\) new Renovation, Remodeling & Painting \(RRP\) Rule](#) goes into effect. The Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning wants to make sure that everyone in the community, especially [contractors](#), [property owners](#), homeowners, [realtors](#), [childcare providers](#) and consumers know that **as of April 22, 2010 renovations in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities must be conducted by renovators with EPA RRP accredited training following lead safe work practice requirements.**

Common renovation activities like sanding, cutting, and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips which can be harmful to children and adults. Renovation, repair and painting activities were associated with 14% of the children investigated for elevated blood lead levels in Upstate NY between 2006 and 2007. Thus, this new law has the potential to significantly decrease childhood lead poisoning throughout the state.

Lead poisoning causes a long list of problems including learning disabilities, kidney disease, high blood pressure, miscarriage, and birth defects. Exposure to lead can even cause depression and aggressive behavior. There is no safe level of lead in the body. While recent

publicity has centered on toys and other consumer products containing lead, the problems caused by all of those products put together is miniscule compared to the number of people harmed when old paint in pre-1978 buildings is disturbed without taking simple precautions.

Contractors can get information about Lead Remodelers and Renovators Certification & Refresher Courses on the EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/lead or by contacting [Environmental Educational Associates](#) (585-783-1465), [the City of Rochester Lead Hazard Reduction Program](#) (585-428-5323), and the [Monroe County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#) (585-753-5087). Both the City and County will be offering a limited number of free RRP courses.

Consumers should be informed about the new RRP rule and ask any contractor they hire if they are EPA RRP certified. Owners conducting repairs in their own homes are not covered by this law (unless they receive compensation, i.e. landlords). For additional information about the new EPA RRP rule or local training, go to the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning's website at www.leadsafeby2010.org.

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