

Lead in the Home



Lead-based paint, in good condition, does not present a health hazard. However, paint left in poor repair, chipped, and peeling can be ingested. The presence of lead in people can cause adverse health effects, especially in children. Even low levels of lead can affect learning abilities, behavior, and brain development. Homes and apartments built before 1978 could have paint that contains lead. The International Property Maintenance Code Section 305.7 requires lead based paint greater than .5% must be removed or encapsulated as approved by the code official.

Landlords and home sellers are required to disclose known hazards for lead-based paint. When remodeling a home with lead-based paint, it is important to take proper precautions because renovations can release lead from paint into the air.

Sources for Lead

- Chipped or peeling paint from surfaces painted before 1978
- Drinking water from lead pipes
- Old painted toys and furniture
- Using lead crystal or lead glazed pottery for food or drink
- Folk remedies that contain lead

Testing for Lead in Paint

If you are concerned, the Tulsa Health Department can test a sample of paint from your home. Bring a sample at least the size of a quarter to the environmental lab at 5051 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa. The cost is \$25. To have children tested for lead, contact your doctor.

How to Reduce Hazards

- Lead based paint in areas that get a lot of wear should be repainted. Examples are window sills, doors, and stair railings.
- During a remodel, be cautious of dust or chipped paint.
- Keep children from chewing on painted surfaces, or toys that could have lead based paint.
- If you rent, talk with your landlord about possible hazards.
- Clean floors, window sills, and door frames often to reduce dust.
- Wash hands before eating to reduce the possibility of ingestion.

If you have questions about lead hazards in your home, please contact the Tulsa Health Department's Environmental Health Services at 918-595-4200.

