



Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful

Safety Sheet

Lead-based paint hazard reduction...

We assume that any house built prior to 1978 has some lead-based paint on it, and when you are scraping off old paint, it's possible you're scraping off lead-based paint. It's not good to inhale dust particles from that old paint, so please follow the following guidelines:

There may be NO pregnant women or children under 8 years of age on the job site while scraping is in process.

Work wet/work smart: All scraping should be "wet-scraping," and any sanding should be "wet-sanding," i.e. the surface should be misted with water prior to scraping. In that way, any lead dust will fall to the ground rather than remain air-borne. All crews are supposed to have either a tank-sprayer or misting bottles on the job site.

When scraping, wash hands prior to having a cigarette or eating anything.

Wipe your shoes (and possibly your pants) well before going into the house or getting into your car to go home; you don't want to track lead dust into your car and into your house.

Drop cloths need to be used during scraping in order to catch the paint flakes. The paint flakes need to be put into the garbage; if they are left on the ground, it is a health hazard, and our program (Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful) could be closed down if the soil is left with lots of paint flakes. (This is NOT an exaggeration...)

Lift ladders when you move them rather than dragging them; that way, you won't tear the drop cloth and allow paint flakes to hit the soil.

Ladder safety...

The highest rung that is safe to stand on is the 3rd rung from the top. The higher rungs are to hang on to as you climb...

Many ladders have a top and a bottom; *make sure the bottom (frequently wider) is on the ground.*

Also, the rungs on many ladders today are angled for comfort and safety, so that when you go up, your feet are parallel with the ground; *make sure the ladder is turned the right way, because if it isn't, your feet could be angled down, and it wouldn't be safe.*