



Lead Paint Safety City of San Diego Resources & Facts

Lead-Based Paint Hazards:

- Many homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint, which can become hazardous if it is peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking or disturbed by uncontained renovation / painting activities.
- Lead poisoning is a serious problem that threatens the health of residents, especially children.
- Children under six years of age are at higher risk for lead poisoning because their bodies absorb more lead, and because their hand-to-mouth activities increase exposure. Even small amounts of lead can have severe effects on a child's nervous system – and can cause brain damage, learning disabilities, reduced muscle and bone growth, and hearing loss. There is no cure so it is critical to eliminate lead hazards before exposure can occur.
- Higher levels of exposure can cause devastating effects including seizures, unconsciousness and even death.
- By removing lead hazards and properly maintaining any remaining lead surfaces in a dwelling, lead exposure can be reduced or eliminated.

San Diego Lead Hazard Reduction Efforts:

Since 2002, HUD has provided over \$17 million in funding to help eliminate lead hazards in San Diego housing. In addition to this program, strategies include:

- Adopting the Lead Hazard Prevention and Control ordinance in 2008;
- Generating an additional 835 lead safe housing units through enforcement over the past five years;
- Generating healthy and safe housing through the \$1 million HUD Healthy Homes grant for 225 housing units which includes the elimination of lead hazards; and
- Providing lead-related education and outreach to thousands of San Diego residents through its various training programs, website (www.lead safeneighborhoods.org), and lead hotline.

Lead Safe San Diego: Administered by the San Diego Housing Commission, the Lead Safe San Diego program eliminates lead hazards in homes built before 1978. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per unit are available for owner-occupied and rental housing located in the city of San

Diego. Eligibility is based on family size and income. The program targets homes in which children under the age of six reside.

San Diego Healthy Homes Collaborative: The San Diego Healthy Homes Collaborative is a free HUD grant dedicated to helping the city of San Diego improve the health and safety conditions of homes in which asthmatic children reside. Administered by the city's Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program, it incorporates a holistic approach toward creating healthy and safe housing by addressing all environmental issues that can impact our children, including lead hazards.

Assistance provided by this Healthy Homes grant to San Diego residents include:

- Control of environmental asthma triggers;
- Medical resources for children with asthma;
- Lead risk assessments
- Elimination of cockroaches, rodents and dust mites;
- Elimination of mold, allergens and other asthma triggers; and
- Free smoke alarms and other children safety equipment.

For information on the San Diego Healthy Homes Collaborative call 858-694-7000, or send an email to lead-safe@sandiego.gov.

Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance: Recognizing that childhood lead poisoning is the number one preventable environmental health problem facing children today, the city last year adopted one of the most comprehensive lead related ordinances in the nation called the Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance. The law's primary goal is to eliminate lead hazards generated from lead-based paint before a child is exposed. Any San Diego resident living in a home or apartment built before 1978 that has peeling paint or identifies a contractor's disturbing paint uncontained, may call the city's lead hot line at 858-694-7000 or email lead-safe@sandiego.gov to have an enforcement officer perform an inspection.

About SDHC: *The San Diego Housing Commission is a public agency working to expand affordable housing opportunities in the City of San Diego. Each year, the agency helps 80,000 low-income individuals with affordable housing through award-winning programs that benefit the city's economy and revitalize neighborhoods. The Housing Commission also finances affordable housing development and advises the San Diego City Council on housing policy matters.*

About ESD: *The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is charged with environmental protection and sustainability, refuse collection disposal, recycling and environmentally sound management to meet the city's long-term disposal needs.*



###