Get the Lead Out: Take Advantage of Unit Turnover

Using unit turnover to make sure units are lead-safe is not difficult. Here are a few simple things you can do to make the most of this time:

Inspect the unit.

- Inspect doors, window sills, stairways and painted floors for peeling or chipping paint. Be sure to check both interior and exterior painted surfaces.
- Make sure windows and doors move easily. Window friction can be a major source of fine lead dust.
- Check outside for bare soil, particularly close to the building, on walking paths, or places where children play. Lead from exterior paint and prior use of leaded gasoline can build up in soil. Lead from soil can be carried into the building on clothes and shoes.

Carefully repair all damaged paint surfaces and hazardous areas.

- Cover the work area with durable protective sheeting (plastic or poly) to prevent the spread of lead and make cleanup easier.
- Mist painted surfaces with water before sanding and scraping to avoid creating dust.
- If you use power sanders or grinders, be sure they have an HEPA-filtered vacuum attachment.
- Do not use open flame or high heat to remove paint, as these methods are not safe for you or your tenants.
- It is best to cover painted floors with new flooring. Leaded paint can make lead dust even if the paint looks good.
- Consider replacing windows that are in poor condition. This can remove a major source of lead dust and save energy.
- Plant grass and small shrubs, use crushed stone, or spread mulch to cover bare soil.

Maine Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

http://www.maine.gov/healthyhomes (207) 287-4311

Department of Health and Human Services
Maine People Living Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives

John E. Baldacci, Governor
Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

Identify and address any underlying problems.

- Fix moisture problems and water damage now. This will give your lead-safe work the best chance of lasting for years to come.

Thoroughly clean the unit to remove any lead dust from repairs.

- Pick up large paint chips and visible dust with a wet paper towel.
- Mist protective sheeting with water before folding it up and putting it into a heavy duty trash bag.
- Using a HEPA vacuum, slowly vacuum surfaces, especially windowsills and floors, including corners and the areas between floorboards.
- Scrub windowsills and floors with soap and water. Be sure to use two buckets, one with clean soapy water, and the for rinse water. Once areas are cleaned with soap, repeat this process with clean water.
- Pour used cleaning and rinse water down the toilet.
- Put all trash from your work and cleanup into plastic trash bags. Seal all trash bags with tape before throwing them into a dumpster or in the trash.

For more information about taking advantage of unit turnover to create lead-safe housing, please contact:

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Also see ***Lead Paint Safety Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance and Renovation Work***. This guide can be found online at http://www.maine.gov/healthy homes. You can also request a copy from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by calling 1-800-424-LEAD.

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