

2017

LEAD POISONING: A Guide for Homeowners

Brenna Whisler

Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

Tracy Ngo

Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliscott>

 Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](#), and the [Public Health Education and Promotion Commons](#)

Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Whisler, Brenna and Ngo, Tracy. "LEAD POISONING: A Guide for Homeowners" (2017). *2016-2017: Scott County, Iowa and the Scott County Health Department*.

<http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliscott/4>

This Pamphlet is brought to you for free and open access by the Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2016-2017: Scott County, Iowa and the Scott County Health Department by an authorized administrator of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.



LEAD POISONING: A Guide for Homeowners



ANY HOME BUILT BEFORE 1989 MAY HAVE LEAD-BASED PAINT

- Lead paint is only a hazard if it begins to chip or peel
- When lead paint peels, it takes on an “alligator” pattern
- Chipping or peeling paint can create lead dust which can gather in soil outside the home, in between floor boards, and around windows
- Old wooden windows can be a big hazard due to the rubbing and banging when they go up and down
- While lead dust gathers in windows, doors, stairs, and floors, it can be found almost anywhere in the home



A WELL MAINTAINED HOME IS A SAFE HOME

- If you want to repair, repaint, or remodel a home that might have lead paint, check with a professional before starting or take a lead-safe work practices course to make sure repairs are safe
- Keep work areas separate from the rest of the home to make sure children do not breathe in lead dust created by the work
- Do not sand, scrape, or remove any paint, walls, windows, or plaster if you think they may contain lead unless you know how to do it safely
- Any renovation work being done on pre-1978 buildings must be completed by a certified professional (owners of privately owned homes can do their own work)
- Any paint that begins to chip or peel should be repaired immediately
- You do not have to remove all lead-based paint to make your home safe. Lead-based paint that is not chipping or peeling is not dangerous. These areas only need to be cleaned and maintained to be safe



MAKE SURE CHILDREN DON'T PLAY NEAR LEAD HAZARDS

- Keep children away from peeling and chipping paint, especially around windows and outdoors where there might be paint chips on the ground
- Wash your children’s hands, toys, pacifiers, and bottles regularly
- Never let a child eat without washing their hands first
- Never let a child drink from a bottle which has not been rinsed after falling on the floor or being placed in a window
- Pick up any paint chips you see around your home and throw them away



TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME CLEAN AND WELL-MAINTAINED

- Wet mop and vacuum floors weekly
- Use a wet rag to wipe down areas where dust might gather, like in and around windows
- Wipe out windows at least monthly
- Rinse rags and change water buckets every three windows

REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT ALONE!
THERE ARE MANY RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT CAN HELP, INCLUDING

Iowa Certification Rules and Regulations:
<http://idph.iowa.gov/lpp/rules-regulations>

Training Calendar for Lead-Safe Work Practices Courses:
<http://idph.iowa.gov/lpp/training-calendar>

Your local health department – Scott County Health Department:
563-326-8618