



EPA ISSUING STEEP FINES TO CONTRACTORS CAUGHT RED HANDED

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In April 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began enforcing a new Lead Renovator, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule. The purpose of the RRP Rule was to minimize exposure from lead-based paint dust during renovation, repair or painting activities. This was a key effort to reduce the prevalence of childhood lead poisoning, particularly lead poisoning caused by housing contaminated by renovation activities. It also minimizes exposure to older children and adults who are also adversely impacted by lead-based paint dust exposure.

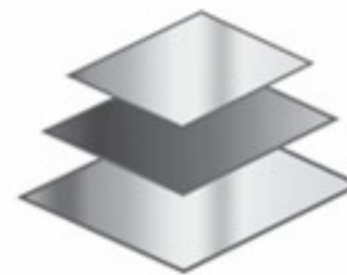
Lead paint was used in more than 38 million homes prior to its ban for residential use in 1978. This paint can form toxic dust when it is disturbed during normal home repair work. In the City of Detroit, six percent of all children six years of age and younger tested in 2004 were identified to have lead poisoning (Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion 2005a). Exposure to lead has serious neurological and behavioral effects on children. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (2005), the best studied effects of lead poisoning are cognitive impairments measured by IQ tests, but other aspects of brain or nerve function, especially behavior, may also be affected.

The RRP Rule requires that renovators are trained in the use of lead-safe work practices, that renovators and firms be certified, that providers of renovation training be accredited, and that renovators follow specific work practice standards. **The rule applies to all firms and individuals who are paid to perform renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb paint in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities, such as schools and childcare centers.** This includes home improvement contractors, maintenance workers, painters and other specialty trades.

In December 2014, the U.S. EPA announced 61 enforcement actions ranging from \$100 to more than \$100,000 in fines per company. One contractor from Kansas City, Missouri racked up \$184,000 in fines for failure to comply with the RRP rules.

If your company obtained certification in 2010, you are set to expire in 2015. To avoid penalty, you must attend a refresher training before your firm's expiration date. CAMTEC will be hosting the Lead RRP Refresher training on **April 15th** and again on **June 11th**. If you need the initial training, register for our **September 9th** course. Online registration is available at www.cam-online.com.

For more information about the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/lead/lead-renovation-repair-and-painting-program-rules>.



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