

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's Exterior Lead-Based Paint Response Program

Omaha Lead Superfund Site
Omaha, Nebraska

Quick Facts

Fall 2007

What is EPA's exterior lead-based paint response program all about?

As a part of the ongoing cleanup of lead-contaminated soil in eastern Omaha, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a response program to prevent yards from becoming recontaminated by deteriorating (loose, flaking) lead-based paint. Deteriorating lead-based paint on the outside of homes can fall to the ground and raise lead concentrations in soils to unsafe levels. Children can accidentally swallow lead-contaminated soil, which can cause lead poisoning. The EPA lead-based paint response program is designed to assure that soil lead levels remain protective after a soil cleanup is completed.

Which homes are eligible for lead-based paint repair?

The EPA exterior lead-based paint response program will be offered to homeowners at properties where a soil cleanup is performed. EPA contractors will test the exterior surfaces at these homes to evaluate the lead content and condition of the exterior paint. **This paint testing is strictly voluntary and will only be performed with the permission of the homeowner.** The lead-based paint testing and any necessary lead-based repair work will be performed at no cost to homeowners or residents. Homes that have the most severe lead-based paint problems, particularly where children under the age of seven live, will be repaired first.

What work will be performed?

EPA's exterior lead-based paint response program is designed to prevent loose and flaking lead-based paint from falling to the ground and raising soil lead concentrations to unsafe levels. The work which will be offered will not consist of complete house repainting. Only those surfaces which have loose and flaking lead-based paint will be repaired. Lead-safe procedures will be used to prepare surfaces, followed by priming and painting.

Who will perform the work?

EPA has teamed with the city of Omaha Lead Hazard Control Program (LHCP) to conduct the lead-based paint activities. EPA contractors will test paint on exterior home surfaces. The results of the testing will be given to the LHCP for follow-up. The LHCP will evaluate the results and identify the properties where exterior lead-based paint problems are most severe. A representative from the LHCP will contact these homeowners to discuss the work that is needed at their residences. The work will proceed only after reaching agreement with the homeowner and receiving their permission to proceed.

Provided by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7
and the City of Omaha Lead Hazard Control Program (LHCP)

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When will the work will be performed?

Testing of exterior paint on homes has been underway since 2006. The actual lead-based paint repair work was initiated by the LHCP in 2007. If your property is eligible for a soil cleanup, you will be contacted by an EPA contractor for permission to test the exterior paint on your home within the next year. Testing is performed using a hand-held instrument that does not disturb painted surfaces. The results of this testing will be sent to the homeowner and residents by mail and provided to the LHCP. A representative from the LHCP will contact you to arrange for any necessary lead-based paint repair work.

What if my house does not qualify for the EPA exterior lead-based paint response program?

EPA's legal authority to address exterior lead-based paint is very limited. Only a portion of the homes that are evaluated by EPA will qualify for paint repair work under this response program. If you have problems with lead-based paint or other lead exposure hazards that cannot be addressed by EPA, you may contact the city of Omaha LHCP at the number listed below for information about other programs.

Contact Information

EPA has established two Public Information Centers located in north and south Omaha. Both of these local offices can provide general information about the Omaha Lead Site and/or specific information about your individual property, including results of soil and paint testing performed by EPA. Residents can also use a toll-free number to contact EPA directly at the regional Kansas City, Kansas, office.

NORTH PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER

3040 Lake Street
Omaha, NE 68111
(402) 991-9583
Days and Hours of Operation:
M, W, & F – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
T & Th – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SOUTH PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER

4909 South 25th Street
Omaha, NE 68107
(402) 731-3045
Days and Hours of Operation:
M, W, & F – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
T & Th – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CITY OF OMAHA

Marian Todd
Lead Hazard Control Program
Omaha City Hall
Omaha, NE
(402) 444-5217
En español – (402) 444-5167

EPA

901 North Fifth Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Toll Free: (800) 223-0425

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