

What we do

The VLSHP provides interim controls for properties with lead hazards eligible for the program. Interim controls are one method of lead hazard reduction recognized to reduce further lead hazards.

Recognized treatment methods for interim controls include:

- Paint stabilization (scrape and paint);
- Temporary containment;
- Specialized cleaning;
- Clearance; and
- Ongoing lead-based paint maintenance.

Although the entire home will be inspected for lead-based paint, special attention is given to friction surfaces where paint has deteriorated, such as the windows, door frames, floors, stairways, drawers, cabinets, and other friction, impact and chewable surfaces on the interior.

Exterior areas of concern include the front and rear porches, and bare residential soil which often serve as outdoor play areas.

The VLSHP may provide assistance for the temporary relocation of residents during the remediation process.



**Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development**
www.dhcd.virginia.gov

(804) 371-7064 or e-mail:
vlsh@dhcd.virginia.gov.

Lead-Safe for Healthy Homes



Protecting your family from
the **dangers** of
lead poisoning...



**Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development**
"Partners for Better Communities"

The Virginia Lead Safe Homes Program

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the number of homes with lead-based paint has fallen from 64 million in 1990, to 38 million in 2000. However there are still many homes that may have lead hazards.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Virginia Lead Safe Homes Program (VLSHP), a partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and provides assistance for reducing lead hazards in residential properties.

The VLSHP is focused on making homes where children under the age of six reside safe from lead poisoning. The goal is to assure lead-safe housing for children, and to address the national goal to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by the year 2010. The program funds the remediation of lead hazards in homes built prior to 1978.

Multiple offender properties

Multiple offender properties have been identified as targeted housing for this grant. These properties are defined as pre-1978 homes that have poisoned more than one child. Multiple offender properties receive priority in the determination of properties to receive remediation.

Lead-Safe for Healthy Homes

Protecting your family from the dangers of lead poisoning...



The dangers of lead

Older homes, particularly those built prior to 1978, are likely suspects for homes with lead-based paint. Lead can be found in and around homes, but the primary focus of lead poisoning is the dust created by the flaking or chipping of deteriorated old, lead-based paint. Older varnish, stain, and even wallpaper can also contain lead.

Lead is a poison. Childhood lead poisoning can cause serious learning and behavioral problems. When lead dust is inhaled into the body, it can cause damage to the brain, kidneys and central nervous system. In children under six years of age, the effects are particularly harmful as the child is still developing.



How you can reduce lead hazards?

Occupants, landlords, contractors and realtors need to be aware of lead hazards in older homes. The Environmental Protection Agency has established federal guidelines for lead safety in remodeling, repairing and painting, which have been adopted by HUD.

Contractors working for the VLSHP are required to have a lead contractor's license and the workers must be certified in Lead Safe Work Practices. The program provides limited funding for the certification and licensing of contractors, inspectors, and risk assessors working under the VLSHP.

HUD has endorsed the free, one-day Lead Safe Work Practices course offered through the National Paint and Coatings Association, and Atrium Environmental Health and Safety Services, LLC. This free course provides practical lead safety tips for contractors, inspectors, families, medical practitioners, landlords, and realtors.

Service areas/localities

The program service areas vary from year to year. Localities currently receiving funding are: the cities of Danville, Petersburg, Portsmouth and Newport News; and the counties of Accomac, Northampton (Eastern Shore), and Surry. Additional localities may be included depending upon future years and funding availability.

Eligibility criteria:

- Home must be built prior to 1978;
- Home can be owner-occupied, rental, single family, or multi-family (one to four units);
- Home must have at least one child under six years of age in residence; and
- Home occupants must meet HUD income eligibility requirements, (80 percent of HUD Area Median Income)

Contact information

To learn more about this program or to find out if your property may be eligible, contact the VLSHP at (804) 371-7064 or e-mail: vlsh@dhcd.virginia.gov.

Assistance is available only in the localities listed and is subject to funding availability. Cash matches may be required by the homeowner.

Related Links for Additional Information

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control
www.hud.gov/offices/lead

U. S. Department of Human Services-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead

Virginia Department of Health
www.vahealth.org/leadsafe

Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations
www.dpor.virginia.gov/regulantlookup

Virginia Department of Labor and Industry
www.doli.virginia.gov/whatwedo/lead_asbestos/lead_asbestos.html

United Parents Against Lead
www.upal.org

Lead Safe Work Practices Training
www.lead safetraining.org