Prescriptions for Prevention

Safer Home Renovations and Repairs

Did you know?

Construction dust created during home renovation can be harmful. Take steps to reduce dust.

Action Plan

- Federal law requires that a contractor who will disturb a painted surface in a home, childcare center, or school built before 1978 must be lead certified and follow practices to ensure that areas are not contaminated with lead. Click here to find a certified contractor or scan the QR code:

- If you will be doing your own renovations in a home built before 1978, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) or visit their website to find out how to avoid contaminating your home with lead:

- Children and pregnant women should not be in lead-containing homes during renovation. They should return only when the work is done, and the home has been tested and certified lead-safe to avoid becoming lead poisoned.

- Asbestos may be found in insulation, ceiling tiles and more. A certified asbestos contractor should be hired to remove asbestos. For the complete list of PA DEP-certified firms, scan the QR code:

- Contain the work: Keep the work area separate from the living space. Use plastic sheeting to cover floors and furniture; cover doorways to the work area and close vents.

- Work “wet” to reduce dust: Mist the surface before removing old paint.

- Clean as you go: Wet clean with a wet mop or wet cloth daily and at the end of the job, including cleaning plastic sheeting. Once cleaned, sheeting should be folded inward, then bagged. It is not considered “hazardous waste” so it can go in normal garbage. Do not dry sweep.

Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Regional Center for Children’s Environmental Health
NIEHS Grant: P2CES033428
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Resources

Free Emergency Home Repairs

To learn more about programs providing free repairs to eligible homeowners in Philadelphia, click this link or scan the QR code:

Restore, Repair, Renew Program

The Restore, Repair, Renew program provides access to home equity loans. To learn more, click here or scan the QR code:

Home Improvement Assistance

The Built to Last program offers whole home repairs, including energy conservation and health and safety improvements. There is sometimes a long waiting list. To learn more, scan the QR code:

Lead and Healthy Homes Program

If you have peeling lead paint and a child under six years old with elevated blood lead levels, consider this free lead remediation program. Click this link or scan the QR code to access this program:

Homeowner's Emergency Loan Program (HELP)

If your home has a lead water service line, the Philadelphia Water Department offers a zero interest loan for replacement. To learn more, scan the QR code:

For more information on the resources here or other questions, contact the Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health at:
215-573-9076 prcceh@pennmedicine.upenn.edu
Website: prcceh.upenn.edu

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