

**Corporation for Affordable Homes of McHenry County
First-Time Homebuyer Program**

“Watch Out For Lead-Based Paint Poisoning”

The property you are purchasing was constructed before 1978. There is a possibility it contains lead-based paint. *Please read and sign* the following information concerning lead-based paint poisoning.

Sources of Lead Based Paint

The interiors of older homes often have layers of lead-based paint on the walls, ceilings, windowsills, doors and doorframes. Lead-based paint and primers may also have been used on outside porches, railings, garages, fire escapes and lampposts. When the paint chips, flakes or peels off, there may be a real danger for babies and young children. Children may eat paint chips or chew on painted railings, windowsills or other items when parents are not around. Children can also ingest lead even if they do not specifically eat paint chips. For example, when children play in an area where there are loose paint chips or dust particles containing lead, they may get these particles on their hands, put their hands into their mouths, and ingest a dangerous amount of lead.

Hazards of Lead-Based Paint

Lead poisoning is dangerous -- especially to children under the age of seven (7). It can eventually cause mental retardation, blindness and even death.

Symptoms of Poisoning

The following may be signs of lead poisoning in a child; cranky or irritability, not eating normally, stomachaches and vomiting, complaints about headaches, and unwilling to play. Many times though, there are no symptoms at all. Because there are no symptoms does not mean that you should not be concerned if you believe your child has been exposed to lead-based paint.

Advisability and Availability of Blood Lead Level Screening

If you suspect your child has eaten chips of paint or someone told you this, you should take your child to the doctor or clinic for testing. If the test shows that your child has an elevated blood lead level, treatment is available. Contact your doctor or local health department for help or more information. Lead screening and treatment are available through the Medicaid Program for those who are eligible.

Precautions to Take to Prevent Lead-Based Paint Poisoning

You can avoid lead-based paint poisoning by performing some preventive maintenance. Look at your walls, ceilings, doors, doorframes and windowsills. Are there places where the paint is peeling, flaking, chipping, or powdering? If so, there are some things you can do immediately to protect your child:

- Cover all furniture and appliances;
- Dust containing lead can be a health hazard. ***DO NOT*** vacuum loose paint. Sweep and damp mop;
- Sweep up all pieces of paint and plaster and put them in a paper bag or wrap them in newspaper. Put these packages in the trashcan. ***Do not*** burn them;
- ***Do not*** leave paint chips on the floor or in window wells. Damp mop floors and windowsills in and around the work area to remove all dust and paint particles. Keeping these areas clear of paint chips, dust and dirt is easy and very important, and;
- ***Do not*** allow loose paint to remain within your children's reach since children may pick loose paint off the lower part of the walls.

Home Owner Maintenance and Treatment of Lead-Based Paint Hazards

As a homeowner, you should take the necessary steps to keep your home in good shape. Water leaks from faulty plumbing, defective roofs and exterior holes or breaks may admit rain and dampness into the interior of your home. These conditions damage walls and ceilings and cause paint to peel, crack or flake. These conditions should be corrected immediately. Before repainting, all surfaces that are peeling, cracking, chipping or loose should be thoroughly cleaned by scraping or brushing the loose paint from the surface, then repainted with two (2) coats of non-lead paint. Instead of scraping and repainting, the surface may be covered with other materials such as wallboard, gypsum, or paneling. Beware

that when lead-based paint is removed by scraping or sanding, a dust is created, which may be hazardous. The dust can enter the body either by breathing it or swallowing it. The use of heat or paint removers could create a vapor or fume which may cause poisoning if inhaled over a long period of time. Whenever possible, the removal of lead-based paint should take place when there are no children or pregnant women on the premises. Simply painting over defective lead-based paint surfaces does not eliminate the hazard. Remember that you as an adult play a major role in the prevention of lead poisoning. Your actions and awareness about the lead problems can make a big difference.

I have received a copy of the Notice entitled "Lead Paint Can Poison: Learn the Facts "

Date

Print Full Name

Signature

Print Full Name

Signature