

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:** October 2008

**“Renovation, Repair, & Painting Rule:”  
New Federal Law Aims to Prevent Lead Poisoning**

- Is your home, your building, or the child care facility or school your children attend being renovated, repaired, or painted?
- Was your home, your building, or the child care facility or school your children under age 6 attend, built before 1978?

If the answer to these questions is YES, there are some things you should know about the dangers of lead based paint. Effective December 22, 2008: “All persons performing renovations for compensation in target (pre-1978) housing or child-occupied facilities must provide the new pamphlet *Renovate Right* to the owners and occupants before beginning renovations.” The pamphlet, created by the Environmental Protection Agency, provides basic facts about lead poisoning and outlines steps to safely renovate buildings where lead paint is present.

“There are many sources of lead poisoning,” says Dr. Christopher Holstege, MD, a toxicologist and the director of the Blue Ridge Poison Center, “but dust and paint in old homes is by far the most common.”

In honor of **National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week** (October 19-25, 2008) learn the facts:

FACT: Projects that disturb lead-based paint can create dust and endanger you and your family.

FACT: Lead is harmful to anyone, but children are especially at risk. Lead can affect children’s brains and developing nervous systems, causing reduced IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems. Often, there are no symptoms.

FACT: The damage caused by lead poisoning is irreversible.

Who can help?

For more information about the new Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule, or for a copy of the *Renovate Right* pamphlet, visit the EPA website: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

For concerns about someone who may have been exposed to lead, contact your doctor, your local health department, or **The Blue Ridge Poison Center** at 1-800-222-1222. Cell users dial 1-800-451-1428.

For information about protecting your family from lead, contact the Lead-Safe Virginia Program: 1-800-532-3394 or <http://www.vahealth.org/leadsafe/>