

Lead in Construction

Lead is a common hazardous element found at many construction sites. Lead exposure comes from inhaling fumes and dust, or ingesting dust when hands are contaminated. Lead can be taken home on your clothes, skin, hair, tools, and in vehicles. Lead exposure may take place in demolition, salvage, removal encapsulation, renovation, and cleanup activities.

How to Avoid Exposure

- Use proper personal protective equipment, (gloves, coveralls, and approved respirators).
- Wash hands and face after work and before eating, drinking and smoking.
- Never enter eating areas wearing protective equipment.
- Never wear work clothes or shoes away from a job site where materials containing lead are disturbed.
- Launder clothing daily, using proper cleaning methods.
- Be alert to symptoms of lead exposure, (severe abdominal pain, headaches, or loss of motor coordination).

Respirator Use

You must be approved to wear a respirator at NCSU before using one. Contact the Respirator Program Manager at 515 – 6862 to arrange for training, fit testing, and medical clearance.

To Prevent Further Exposure

- Ensure adequate ventilation is present. When outdoors stand upwind of any dust or plume.
- Use dust collecting equipment when possible.
- Use lead-free materials and chemicals.
- Use wet methods to decrease dust.
- Use local exhaust ventilation for enclosed work areas.

If you have questions or would like an exposure assessment of your work area, contact the Lead Program Manager at 515 – 8658.