

Lead (the metal) Precautions

Lead is a common hazardous element found at many sites. Lead exposure comes from inhaling fumes and dust, and lead can be ingested when hands are contaminated by lead dust. Lead can be taken home on workers' clothes, skin, hair, tools and in vehicles.

Lead exposure may take place in demolition, salvage, removal, encapsulation, renovation and recycling activities.

Avoid Exposure

- Use proper personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, clothing and approved respirators).
- Wash hands and face after work and before eating.
- Never enter eating areas wearing protective equipment.
- Never wear clothes and shoes that were worn during lead exposure away from work.
- Launder clothing daily; use proper cleaning methods.
- Be alert to symptoms of lead exposure (e.g., severe abdominal pain, headaches, loss of motor coordination).

Use Respirators

- Health effects vary with how long, and at what level, you are exposed. Asthmatics may be at greater risk.

Prevent Further Exposure

- Ensure adequate ventilation.
- When outdoors, stand upwind of any 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.

Based on OSHA's Quick Card for Lead in Construction.

For more information on OSHA's lead compliance standards, go to: <http://osha.gov/SLTC/lead/index.html>

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