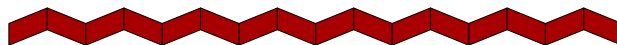




# LEAD-BASED PAINT



## Safety & Security Fact Sheet

### ✓ WHAT IS LEAD-BASED PAINT?

Lead-based paint is paint that contains lead, a highly toxic ingredient, that inhibits rust and improves the durability of the paint coating.

### ✓ IS LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDOUS?

The ingestion of lead-based paint chips or the inhalation of lead-based paint dust can cause lead poisoning. The symptoms of lead poisoning among children include behavioral changes, appetite suppression, weight loss, sleep disturbance, hyperactivity, attention disorder, and hearing impairment. Exposed children are more likely to have learning disabilities and require special education. The effect of lead on mental development is most severe among children under the age of six years.

### ✓ HASN'T THE USE OF LEAD-BASED PAINT BEEN BANNED?

The Consumer Products Safety Commission banned the interior use of lead-based paint in 1978.



### ✓ IS THERE ANY LEAD-BASED PAINT IN FCPS BUILDINGS?

Probably not, but it is possible that there is some lead-based paint in buildings constructed before the ban in 1978, particularly on metal components primed by the manufacturer. It is also possible that furniture that has been donated to the school or brought in by employees may be coated with lead-based paint.

### ✓ HOW CAN I TELL IF THERE IS LEAD-BASED PAINT IN CLASSROOMS?

You cannot identify lead-based paint by looking at it. Identification requires sophisticated laboratory analysis or the use of an instrument called an X-ray Fluorescence Spectrum Analyzer (XRF). Intact paint should not be cause for any immediate concern.

### ✓ IS ANYTHING BEING DONE TO IDENTIFY LEAD-BASED PAINT IN FCPS?

The Office of Safety and Security has an XRF and is in the process of inspecting each of the FECEP (Headstart), preschool, and kindergarten classrooms as well as common areas in the 100 elementary schools built before 1978.

### ✓ IS THE IDENTIFIED LEAD-BASED PAINT REMOVED?

Not necessarily. Removal of lead-based paint can create a greater hazard than its mere presence represents. When lead-based paint is identified, a risk assessment is performed to determine the seriousness of the hazard and the most feasible method to eliminate the hazard. This may include removal, replacement, or covering the paint with a suitable barrier.

For more information, visit our web site, [www.fcps.edu/fts/safety-security/factsheets/seh-6.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/fts/safety-security/factsheets/seh-6.pdf)  
If you need assistance, call the safety section at 703-658-3770.