LEAD

Lead contamination is common at brownfield sites and a serious issue due to its persistence in the environment and harmful effects. Lead-based paints, in particular, pose significant hazards to human health. Federal and state laws regulate the reporting, testing, cleanup, and disposal of these materials. Proper cleanup and thoughtful community involvement can transform lead contaminated sites into safe, useful spaces.

LEAD PAINT ABATEMENT PROCESS

Lead-based paint abatement involves safely removing or encapsulating the lead hazards. The process is regulated by federal, state, and local regulations and is undertaken by trained and certified professionals.

The abatement process is a multi-step procedure designed to reduce exposure to lead and document the cleanup process. Here's a simplified breakdown:

INSPECTION

Certified professionals assess the property to identify lead-based paint hazards.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Experts evaluate the severity and location of lead hazards, including lead in paint, dust, and soil.

PROJECT DESIGN

A certified project designer develops a plan to address identified lead hazards.

ABATEMENT

Abatement is a specialized activity aimed at permanently eliminating lead-based paint hazards through methods such as removal, enclosure, or encapsulation.

CLEARANCE TESTING

Following abatement, a certified inspector conducts tests to ensure lead hazards have been effectively removed.

Lead is a heavy metal that was widely used in products like paint, pipes, gasoline, and some pesticides. Lead is a major pollutant in coal ash and other residues found in urban, industrial soils and some agricultural soils. It does not break down in the environment. Even small amounts of lead can be dangerous to humans, especially children and pregnant women.

Examples: Old structures and buildings, aircraft component manufacturing used lead paint prior to 1978. Factories and industrial sites sometimes released lead into the soil.

HEALTH RISKS

Brain and Nervous System Damage.

Developmental Delays in Children.

Increased Risk of Miscarriage and Harm to Fetal Development.

EPA BANS MOST NEW USES OF LEAD

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TAB REGION 1

New England Rural Health Association

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