LEAD EXPOSURE

Pre-1960s paintwork over wood or metal surfaces may contain harmful lead.

If the surface is sound, avoid removing this. If you need to sand this down, use wet sanding techniques and wipe down afterwards. Dispose of rags and sandpaper immediately to avoid them drying out

Avoid creating dust. If the surface must be removed, use wet removal techniques – paint stripper or, if necessary, wet-sanding techniques

Hot-air guns may be used as long as the paint does not become overheated (i.e. if the flakes fall on the element) as lead vapour can be inhaled

Do not use a blow torch or dry blast clean

Use sheeting to prevent spreading removed paint

Clean up well afterwards. Use a certified hazardous dust industrial vacuum fitted with a HEPA filter

Change out of work overalls to go home

If uncertain seek specialist advice before commencing work



PLAN YOUR WORK TO AVOID RISKS

Assess all risks – check if lead paint is present

Avoid excess exposure to solvent fumes – ensure adequate ventilation by opening doors and windows

Where ventilation is poor, or in the case of small spillages, you should wear CE-marked Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) with a vapour filter with an assigned protection factor (APF) of at least 10

If applying paint by spray, RPE with a vapour and particulate filter may be required – see the safety data sheet for details

Avoid exposure to sanding dusts – wear a respirator with a particulate filter with an APF of at least 10 (eg FFP2 disposable mask or half mask with P2 filter)

When dry sanding with hand tools, use on – tool extraction and RPE with an APF 20 (FFP3/P3)

All RPE should fit well – stop work if uncomfortable – disposable masks should be replaced regularly

Some paints contain substances which have potential to cause allergic reactions - read the label

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The British Coatings Federation

E: info@bcf.co.uk **T:** 01372 365 989

The Painting and Decorating Association

E: info@paintingdecoratingassociation.co.uk

T: 0247 635 3776

The Scottish Decorators Federation

E: info@scottishdecorators.co.uk

T: 0178 644 8838

paintsafe

promoting best practice



A best practice guide to ensure the safe application of decorative paints

PaintSafe is brought to you by:

BCF BRITISH COATINGS FEDERATION

Painting Decorating Association

Scottish Decorators' Federation

www.paintsafe.org.uk

PAINTSAFE

PaintSafe is an initiative developed by the British Coatings Federation (BCF) at the request of the major paint manufacturers in the UK and in association with the Painting and Decorating Association and the Scottish Decorators' Federation. The initiative aims to promote the safe use of paint and related products and provide best practice for decorators and other applicators during preparation, application and drying. It is essential to refer to information on the container label and/or safety data sheet before using paint products.

Visit www.paintsafe.org.uk for more information.



Whilst the majority of paints available to professionals are non-hazardous, care should still be taken.

Key hazard concerns are:

- Contact with skin, which could result in dermatitis
- Contact with the eyes
- Inhalation of dust or paint fumes
- Ingestion of paint
- Flammability of solvent-based paints

WHEN YOU ARE PAINTING ...

DO

- ✓ Read labels and/or safety data sheets (SDS)
- ✓ Check if there is a hazard in the surface to be painted (e.g. lead, asbestos)
- ✓ Prepare substrates prior to painting in accordance with manufacturer recommendations
- ✓ Be aware of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations and carry out a COSHH assessment
- ✓ Store all paints safely and out of the reach of children and vulnerable adults
- ✓ Control access to areas being painted, apply 'wet paint signs'
- ✓ Wear recommended PPE and ensure it fits. Eye, skin and respiratory protection may be required - see label on SDS
- ✓ Keep dust to a minimum
- ✓ Reuse or recycle leftover paint
- ✓ Wipe clean brushes and rollers before washing
- ✓ Thoroughly clean up afterwards using a HEPA vacuum
- ✓ Dispose of waste safely
- ✓ Wash thoroughly before eating, drinking or smoking and before going home

DO NOT

- ✗ Eat, drink or smoke when applying paint
- ✗ Breathe in wood or paint dust
- ✗ Use solvents or thinners to wash paint splashes off skin
- ✗ Sand or burn off old paint that may contain lead
- ✗ Dispose of paint or solvents down the drain
- ✗ Leave paint-soaked rags lying around or in pockets as they can be a fire hazard. Instead, lay them out to dry or wash in soapy water
- ✗ Leave lids off containers when not in use
- ✗ Use a standard vacuum cleaner for removing hazardous dusts

Always get medical attention if you feel unwell – have product container to hand.