

Partnership with **The Home Depot** Stores to Prevent Lead Poisoning

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is partnering with **The Home Depot** to promote lead safety awareness among sales associates. This campaign provides lead-safe work practices training to enable sales associates to provide accurate information to customers purchasing home renovation, repair, or painting supplies.

Projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes built before 1978, such as sanding or tearing down walls, can create dust that endangers both workers and residents in the home. At high levels, lead can damage the liver, kidneys, reproductive system, and other organs. Even at low levels, lead can affect children's brains and developing nervous systems, causing reduced IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems. However, lead poisoning is preventable and that is why these trainings are so valuable.

CLPPP staff visit different Home Depot store locations each month to train sales associates about lead hazards and lead-safe work practices. Store employees receive training in the following areas:

- health effects of lead poisoning
- sources of lead in the home
- lead-safe work practices versus dangerous work practices such as power sanding
- supplies needed for containment, clean-up and worker protection
- State and Federal laws related to lead poisoning prevention and lead-safe work practices
- lead poisoning prevention resources

This training encourages employees to share information with their customers on prevention of lead poisoning during renovations. Employees are encouraged to ask if the home was built before 1978 and find out if existing paint will be disturbed. They can then warn the customer about the dangers of disturbing lead-based paint and provide EPA pamphlets, which contain specific safe work practices and clean-up procedures required by law. Most importantly, customers are referred to the CLPPP hotline number for more information on lead poisoning prevention and lead-safe work practices.

Upon completion of the training, the store and each Home Depot employee receive a certificate from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for their participation in this important campaign. Funding for this training is provided through the grant program from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC).