

## Paint Partnership with **SHERWIN-WILLIAMS** to Eliminate Lead Poisoning

On January 15, 2009, the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (**CLPPP**) joined forces with **SHERWIN-WILLIAMS** as part of a comprehensive effort to prevent and further eliminate lead poisoning. To prevent accidental lead poisoning from home renovation projects, CLPPP's Lead-Safe Work Practices campaign targets customers who are purchasing renovation supplies from hardware and paint stores. Partnering with Sherwin-Williams, the largest producer of paints and coatings in the country, allows CLPPP to spread this message to customers at all their stores throughout Los Angeles County.

Exposure to lead-contaminated dust is the leading cause of childhood lead poisoning. A common source is deteriorated lead-based paint found in older homes. Unsafe practices, such as sandblasting and dry scraping of lead-based paint in homes built before 1978, can create hazardous lead dust. It can endanger both workers and residents in the home. Exposure to even low levels of lead can affect children's brains and developing nervous systems, causing reduced IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems. Fortunately, lead poisoning is preventable.

CLPPP provides quarterly training sessions and educational materials to Sherwin-Williams employees. The goal is to have sales associates interact with customers purchasing supplies for their renovation and painting projects and provide them with information on how to work safely. In addition, CLPPP also conducts separate lead-safe work practices training to customers who are mostly contractors. It is particularly important for those engaged in repair, renovation, and painting to learn how to perform their work in a lead-safe manner to avoid exposure to lead dust and the legal consequences for violating lead hazard laws.

CLPPP staff visit different Sherwin-Williams store locations each quarter to train employees and customers about lead hazards and lead-safe work practices. They receive training in the following areas:

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

This training encourages employees to share information with their customers on prevention of lead poisoning during renovation. Employees are encouraged to ask customers if they will be disturbing paint in a pre-1978 home. They can then warn the customer about the potential dangers of disturbing lead-based paint and provide EPA

pamphlets, which contain specific lead-safe work practices and clean-up procedures required by law. Most important, customers have a resource, the CLPPP hotline, 1-800-LA-4-LEAD, where they can converse with staff about lead poisoning prevention and lead-safe work practices.

Customer training sessions encourage the use of lead-safe work practices for home renovation and painting projects. Also discussed are the new federal law and the procedure for becoming a “Certified Renovator” for renovating homes built before 1978.

Upon completion and to show our support, each Sherwin-Williams employee and customer will 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 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).