

The Problem

The City Lead Ordinance was once a progressive piece of legislation in the 1970's. Today, this proposed ordinance amendment before you will expand definitions and reduce ambiguity.

Times have changed and yet, the issues of lead have remained. Technology and science; advancing methods for lead paint removal and contractor education have helped in reducing lead toxins in the environment. Informed consumers have also helped reduce the incidence of lead. As more research has been done the more we learn that lead in a small child can be harmful to his/her development.

Another part of our problem is that this is predominantly an urban issue. In New Haven, 85% of the residential housing units were built prior to 1978. The US only banned consumer use of Pb based paint in 1978 although the dangers of lead-based paint were well known before that. The paint industry lobby was a strong one and while most developed countries banned this product in the 30s and 40s, the US lagged behind. Unfortunately, older housing stock often is the cheapest to rent. The soil on these properties, often former industrial and manufacturing sites, contain soils contaminated with lead. Years and years of painting and scraping have taken a toll.

The NHHD has attacked the issue of Pb paint in homes and in day care centers for decades. Early methods of paint testing were taking paint chips to the state lab for analysis with results arriving wks later. In most cities and towns in CT, this method is still the predominant method of testing paint for lead. Thanks to proactive leadership in the NHHD on writing and receiving grants, we use Euresis XRF machines that provide instant results. While they are expensive to operate, they provide a useful tool in operating the NHHD attack on lead paint today.

Coordination with Other City Departments, state and federal agencies

Efforts are already being made to better coordinate information needed by the Health Department on Defective surfaces in housing units and on housing exteriors

Soon, **LCI Housing Code Division** will be recording the conditions of painted surfaces and the exteriors during the course of their housing inspections. Having this inspection information on file and then, having it available to other departments electronically will make better use of the enforcement manpower. With the **MUNICITY** data system, working its way through City Departments as we speak, this knowledge can be shared and followed up by HD staff for action.

The **Building Department** issues Building Permits and at the point when a contractor or homeowner comes to that office for a permit, there can be made a request to attach a current copy of the EPA's Lead Renovate, Repair and Paint law. This requires any contractor working on pre 1978 residential units to use safe work practices. In the near future, the HD anticipates co-sponsoring to with other organizations in offering RRP training classes for area contractors working with landlords. The **City Clerk** office is where the HD documents on the land records when housing has outstanding violations of lead paint.

The HD also works with the state **DPH**, **DEEP** and **DCF** in gaining knowledge about housing units where small children reside. The inspectors frequently contact **OSHA** for worker violations in working on lead paint without protective equipment. The **USEPA** follows up on our reports of improper paint removal practices observed in New Haven. Over the past 3 months, inspectors have reported 4 contractors using hazardous work practices working on homes throughout the City.

In our community we are fortunate to be home to Yale University and SCSU, each with schools of public health and environmental health. They are helpful expert advisors to the NHHD and have resources that

have not been fully tapped to help us address the matter of lead. In recent talks, they have offered innumerable resources to the City through the HD to help solve the lead problem.

Closing Remarks