

Free Assessment of Lead in Residential House Paint Samples



March 2002

Rationale

Queensland Health is committed to minimising the risk that exposure to lead in the environment presents to public health. To reduce the potential for domestic exposure to occur from lead in paint, particularly to those at greatest risk from exposure (young children and pregnant women), Queensland Health Scientific Services will determine, at no charge to the client, the level of lead in paint samples from domestic residences. The provision of this service is considered to be an important preventive measure towards reducing the potential for public exposure to lead.

It is anticipated that the provision of this service will, where necessary, encourage compliance with the relevant Australian Standard (Australian Standard 4361.2) and appropriate guidelines (eg. The Six Step Guide to Painting your Home) for the safe management of lead-based paint in residential settings.

Objectives of Policy

The objective of the policy statement is to state criteria against which the eligibility of a client to use the service can be determined.

Scope of the Policy

The policy statement is confined to the testing of the level of lead in residential paint samples. Testing for the level of lead in other matrices, such as soil or dust, is considered on a case by case basis.

This policy does not address the following:

- Request from tenants unless a Queensland Health Environmental Health Officer considers the paint may present an unacceptable risk to health.
- Testing for the lead content of non-residential paint samples.

The service will not be provided in those situations where there are commercial interests. For example:

- Request made on behalf of client by a professional painter or builder.
- Request from a person who, prior to buying a property, wants to determine whether the paint used on the property contains lead.
- Request from owner or tenant of commercial premises.

Policy Statement

Queensland Health Scientific Services will provide a free assessment of the level of lead in residential house paint samples **ONLY IF** samples are submitted through a Queensland Health Environmental Health Service **AND** at least one of the following criteria is met:

- The person submitting paint samples to the Environmental Health Service presently owns and resides in the residence from which the samples were taken.

OR

- A Queensland Health Environmental Health Officer considers that the condition of paint in a residence and the potential presence of lead in the paint may present an unacceptable risk to the health of the residents.

OR

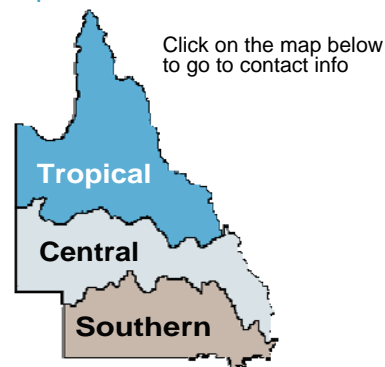
- The case involves follow-up of a non-occupational lead exposure notification where the investigating officer considers that testing of paint is required.

See also:

Guidelines for the Safe Management of Paint that Contains Lead

Request for Analysis: Lead in Paint Scrapings

For more information, contact your local public health network



Central Public Health Unit Network servicing Brisbane Northside, Longreach, Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay. For contact details go to www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/central/

Southern Public Health Unit Network servicing Brisbane Southside, Darling Downs, Roma, South Coast, South West Queensland, West Moreton. For contact details go to www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/southern/

Tropical Public Health Unit Network servicing Cairns, Mackay, Mount Isa and Gulf, Townsville. For contact details go to www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/tropical/

For medical advice, contact your doctor, hospital or health clinic.

Published by:

Environmental Health Branch
Queensland Health
PO Box 2368
Fortitude Valley BC Q 4006
Ph: +61 7 3328 9310
Fax: +61 7 3234 1480
www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/ehu/

This document may be reproduced in full, providing the source is acknowledged, but may not be reproduced in part without prior permission of the Division of the Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health.