

FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH NEWSLETTER

September 20, 2011

LEAD BASED PAINT:

If you live in a home that was constructed before 1978, there is a good chance that you may have lead-based paint somewhere in your home. I am sure many of you are aware of the risks of lead exposure, especially to children under the age of 6, which include delayed growth & development, hearing & speech damage, behavioral problems, and attention & learning disorders. However, did you know that the State of Iowa requires all contractors, rental property owners, maintenance workers, painters and even some plumbers and electricians who are removing painted components such as windows and doors, repairing a painted surface or preparing it for repainting, replacing windows, or removing walls and ceilings in houses and child occupied facilities that were built prior to 1978 to attend an 8 hour lead-safe renovator course and apply to be certified lead renovator through the Iowa Department of Public Health. This rule does not apply to lead abatement done by a certified lead abatement contractor, work done by a property owner as long as it is being done on the home in which they occupy or reside, or for minor repair or maintenance activities that disturb an area that is less than 1 square foot in size. When performing the above activities, a certified renovator must assure the occupants have been warned not to enter the work area through signs posted on the site; that dust and debris be contained to the work area; that waste material be contained, stored and transported safely; that the work area is cleaned properly and passes a post-renovation cleaning verification or clearance testing with dust samples; and complete and maintain records about the project. To find out if your renovator is certified, please visit the Iowa Department of

Public Health website at the following link:

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/lead/lead safe renovators.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/lead/lead%20safe%20renovators.pdf).

If you are a homeowner wanting to renovate your own home, there are some products available that can assist with lead-based paint hazards. One of these products includes ECOBOND[®] LBP which is a latex-based coating that is applied to surfaces coated with lead-based paint to act as a sealant and provide an impermeable layer that binds lead dust, reducing the health and safety impacts of working with lead-based paint. It also treats the lead prior to renovation and demolition, making wastes non-hazardous further protecting the environment. A gallon of this sealant is available at Home Depot for \$49.97.



Additional products available for cleaning lead paint dust following renovation include D-Lead[®] Surface Wipes, D-Lead[®] Surface Cleaner Concentrate, and D-Lead[®] Ready to Use Surface Cleaner. Since lead is heavy and holds a static charge, it is very difficult to clean lead dust with basic cleaners. The D-Lead[®] products are specifically designed to wet and lift lead paint dust and can be used on window sills, walls, countertops, cabinets,

floors, and carpeting. There is also a D-Lead® hand wash available as well. These products are not currently sold in any store in Iowa, however, the following link provides a list of where these products are available: <https://www.esca-tech.com/lptk/Distributors.php>



This line of products also has an easy to use lead paint test kit available to purchase, as well. For additional information concerning this line of products, please visit the Esca Tech, Inc., website at www.esca-tech.com. For additional information regarding lead or for information on how to become a certified renovator, please visit the Iowa Department of Public Health website at:

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp

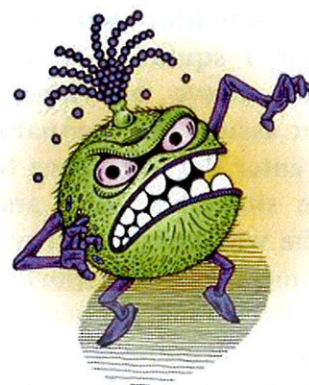
MOLD:

Now I would like to take a few minutes to talk about mold, as we receive by far more mold calls than any other indoor air quality issue. Mold is a natural part of the environment and can be present outdoors at some level throughout the year. In order for mold to grow indoors, there must be a significant water source present, including humidity. The first step to getting rid of mold is to get rid of the moisture source by fixing leaks, sloping the soil and ground away from the building, utilizing a dehumidifier, utilizing gutters to drain storm water away from the building, etc. Once the moisture source has been eliminated, the mold can be cleaned with a mild household detergent and water solution if the surface is non-porous (concrete, tile or vinyl flooring, plastic furniture or toys, tub surroundings, paneling, molding, etc). If it is a porous material (drywall, carpeting, furniture,

bedding, clothing, stuffed animals, books, etc.), the material should be discarded and replaced.

I know there is a lot of misconception out there regarding mold and the health effects from mold exposure. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, only 50% of the population of the US is allergic to mold, and only people who have this allergy are affected by mold exposure. If you are not allergic to mold, you will have no health effects from exposure. If you are, your health effects will depend entirely on the sensitivity of your allergy. For some people, this could mean that mold is very dangerous to your health, however, for the majority or at least half of the United States, exposure to mold, even the “deadly” black mold, will have little to no impact on your health.

In addition, I would like to add that many people who suspect they have mold instinctively want a “mold test”. Although the laboratories can test mold, there is no standard for mold because no two people are affected the same way by mold. Therefore, the Iowa Department of Public Health does not recommend testing for mold. They would rather you use your senses and if it looks like mold and/or smells like mold, it is mold and the steps mentioned above should be taken.



WELL TESTING

I talked a little bit about well testing in my last newsletter, so I just wanted to briefly mention that we still have grant money available to test private wells at no cost to the homeowner. Please contact 641-257-6145 if you would like to schedule a water test.



FLOYD COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

The Floyd County Planning & Zoning Department has been in the process of re-writing its Zoning Ordinance for the past several months. We are now at the point where we can begin the public hearing process prior to adoption. I have added a link to the proposed Zoning Ordinance on the County website at <http://www.floydcoia.org/features/Floyd%20County%20ZO%209-13-11%20Final.pdf> to give the public a chance to review the ordinance prior to the public hearing. The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold its public hearing on October 11, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in the office of the Planning and Zoning Department on the 1st floor of the County Courthouse. A notice will be published in the Charles City Press ten (10) days prior to the public hearing. If you have any questions, concerns, or proposed changes/additions to the Ordinance, please feel free to contact the Floyd County Planning & Zoning Department at 641-257-6145; submit a letter to the Planning & Zoning Department at 101 S. Main Street, Charles City, IA 50616; or attend the public hearing on October 11th.