

It's Fix-Up Time

By Waded Gonzalez-Candelaria, Public Health Educator

Are you thinking about fixing up the old homestead? Are you planning on doing the project on your own or hiring someone to do it for you? Was your home built before 1978? If it was, it may contain lead paint. When lead paint is disturbed during remodeling, dangerous lead dust is created. Young children and pregnant women are at the greatest risk from exposure to lead dust, but anyone can become lead poisoned.

The Onondaga County Health Department Lead Poisoning Control Program would like you to consider the following questions before you start your project:

- Was the house built before 1978?
- Will you be disturbing the paint?
- Have you had the paint tested to see if it is lead paint?
- What safety precautions will you or your contractor/handyman take to protect yourself and your children from exposure to hazardous lead dust?

The most important thing to consider when remodeling is controlling the lead dust. You can do this by following these tips:

WORK SMART

- To keep paint chips and dust contained, work in one area at a time
- Enclose the work area using heavy plastic (6 mil)
- Keep pregnant women and children out of the work area
- Protect yourself by washing your hands and eating or drinking outside the work area
- Wear a protective mask to prevent lead dust from being inhaled

WORK WET

- Avoid creating lead dust by using a spray bottle to wet an area to be sanded or scraped

WORK CLEAN

- Clean up must be done daily. Don't allow anyone into the work area until the daily cleanup is complete

Learn more about working safely with lead paint. To sign up for a FREE one-day Lead Safe Work Practices training, call the Lead Poisoning Control Program at 435-3271.



Another **PRO** Compliments of the Home Builders & Remodelers of Central New York - *An Association of Professionals*