



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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**MDEQ ADVISES HOMEOWNERS TO CHECK CERTIFICATION OF
RENOVATORS**

(JACKSON, Miss.) – The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is advising homeowners to ensure that their renovators and painters are certified by the agency's Lead-based Paint Program. This caution applies only to homes built before 1978, and if the renovation work disturbs old paint that contains lead.

Mississippi's Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program received authorization in April 2010 to administer and enforce EPA's Lead Renovation Program and is managed by MDEQ's Air Division.

"We want Mississippians to be aware of the effects of lead contaminated dust if it is disturbed. Renovation activities like sanding, cutting, and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips by disturbing lead-based paint. Lead-based paint was used in more than 38 million homes until it was banned for residential use in 1978, and research has shown that lead exposure can cause reduced IQ, learning disabilities, development delays, and behavioral problems in young children," said Maya Rao, Chief of MDEQ's Air Division.

The Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program mandates that contractors, property managers, and others working for compensation, in homes and child-occupied facilities built before 1978, must be trained and certified in lead-safe work practices by the State of Mississippi. They are also required to provide a pamphlet, "Renovate Right; Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools," to owners and occupants before starting renovation work.

For more information about Mississippi's new program, including information on applying for certification or locating training, contact the Mississippi Lead-Based Paint Program at 601-961-5171, or visit http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Air_Lead-BasedPaint?OpenDocument.

Information about lead-based paint and EPA's lead program is available at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or by contacting the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD (5323).

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