
What is Ohio EPA's Position Regarding the Disposal of Lead-based Paint Waste?

Regardless of who generates lead-based paint (LBP) waste from abatement, renovation and remodeling activities at homes and other residences, LBP waste is exempt from the hazardous waste requirements under the household hazardous waste exemption [Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-51-04(B)(1)]. This rule defines households as "...single and multiple residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew quarters, campgrounds, picnic grounds and day-use recreation areas." In addition, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) § 3734.02(D) exempts single-family residential premises from regulation under ORC § 3734 and all OAC rules adopted under it.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes lead-based paint waste which homeowners or contractors generate in households. Common wastes generated include architectural components coated with lead-based paint (i.e., doors, windows, wooden trim, etc.) and other debris (contaminated carpet, paint chips, plastic sheeting, rags, sandpaper and paint stripping wastes).

Why has Ohio EPA's Interpretation Changed?

Ohio EPA changed its interpretation to be consistent with U.S. EPA's interpretation that they expressed in a July 31, 2000, memorandum from Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director, Office of Solid Waste to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Senior Policy Advisors, EPA Regions 1-10. U.S. EPA intended its interpretation to simplify lead abatement projects (LAP) and reduce costs associated with regulatory compliance for management and disposal of lead contaminated lead abatement, renovation and remodeling wastes. The reduced cost and simplified management of wastes should result in reduced lead exposure to children.

Where Can Exempt Household Lead-based Paint Wastes be Disposed of in Ohio?

Contractors (including lead abatement contractors) may dispose of this waste with household waste. Some types of residential LBP waste may be disposed of at a construction and demolition debris landfill if it meets Ohio’s definition of construction and demolition debris. These materials include window and door frames, doors, wall board and other structural components. However, liquid LBP waste is prohibited from landfill disposal. Although HHW is exempt from all hazardous waste requirements, all waste generated must be disposed of in accordance with all applicable Ohio solid waste disposal requirements. Materials not "...identified or listed as solid wastes must comply with Ohio EPA Division of Materials and Waste Management construction and demolition debris requirements found in OAC Chapter 3745-400."

Who Must Comply with Hazardous Waste Requirements When Removing Lead-based Paint?

Businesses that remove LBP from structures that are not households must evaluate the wastes they generate from abatement, renovation and remodeling projects to determine if they are hazardous wastes. These structures include; bridges, office buildings, churches, schools, etc.
Who Do I Talk to About Becoming a Lead Abatement Contractor?

Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Division of Quality Assurance licenses professionals who conduct lead abatements. The Division also establishes work practices with which lead abatement contractors who must comply with OAC Chapter 3701-32. ODH maintains a web site for you to search for licensed contractors in your area. You may also be able to find a list of lead abatement contractors by contacting your Counties Health Department.

Contact

For more information, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance and Inspection Support Unit of the Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization at 614-644-2924.

Resources

Ohio EPA
Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention
(800) 329-7518

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
(800) 582-1708

OSHA
Columbus Area Office
(Worker safety concerns)
(614) 469-5582

Ohio Department of Health
Division of Quality Assurance Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
(614) 466-9346

(Frequently asked questions concerning lead and abatement licensure)

U.S. EPA
Office of Solid Waste
RCRA/Superfund Hotline
(800) 424 9346
(General hazardous waste information)

Lead Information Clearinghouse
(800) 424-LEAD

National Lead Information Center
1 (800) 424-LEAD [5323]