

Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance



Summary

The goal of the City of San Diego's Children's Right to Lead Safe Housing Ordinance (also known as the Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance) is to prevent, identify and remedy lead hazards in housing before children are poisoned. The ordinance seeks to ensure that children living in pre-1978 rental and owner-occupied homes are protected from the dangers of lead-based paint and dust. The ordinance also protects workers by banning unsafe lead work practices.

Key Elements:

- **Requires Prevention:** Deteriorated lead-based paint will be a municipal code violation requiring increased inspections and repair to prevent the poisoning of children
- **Protects ALL Children in Rental and Owner-Occupied Housing:** Landlords and homeowners will be required to repair lead hazards
 - **When Housing is Sold:** House must be inspected, and lead-safe work practices implemented and verified with a clearance
 - **When Housing is Rented:** House must have visual inspection at each turnover and all lead hazards must be remedied
- **Protects Workers:** Establishes clear standards for handling lead in paint and bans unsafe work practices
- **Increases Enforcement:** Strengthens City authority to take direct enforcement when required
- **Requires Blood Lead Tests:** All children must have their blood tested for lead before being enrolled in childcare facilities
- **Requires Public Education:** All home Improvement and rental equipment stores must provide lead education materials

Childhood Lead Poisoning is a HUGE Problem in the City of San Diego

100 children are exposed to lead every month primarily from lead-based paint and dust in their homes

Health Impacts Associated with Lead Exposure

Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health threat to children under 6. It can damage the central nervous system, resulting in reduced IQ, learning disabilities, behavior problems, hyperactivity and increased aggression. But childhood lead poisoning is also the most preventable environmental disease among young children.

The Lead Ordinance is the Right Solution

We must test homes before testing children's blood. Once children are exposed to lead, the damage has been done. Code enforcement officers play a critical role by including lead among hazards they address, significantly increasing the identification and control of lead hazards. The Lead Citizen's Advisory Taskforce for the City of San Diego designed a system to share responsibility between the City, home owners and landlords to ensure pre-1978 housing is made lead-safe.

How will the City of San Diego Pay for the Enforcement?

- Contractor fees average \$31 per permit
- Homeowner lead-safe or lead-free certificates -- \$40
- Fines and penalties for non-compliance
- Grants

Costs to Landlords and Home Owners are minimal – primarily the cost of maintaining paint in good condition.

Tell the City Council YOU support the ordinance!

Attend the San Diego City Council meeting **March 11, 2008** to show your support for the lead ordinance

Contact your City Council representative:

- District 1 Council President Scott Peters scottpeters@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6611
- District 2 Councilmember Kevin Faulconer kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6622
- District 3 Councilmember Toni Atkins toniatkins@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6633
- District 4 Councilmember Tony Young anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6644
- District 5 Councilmember Brian Maienschein bmaienschein@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6655
- District 6 Councilmember Donna Frye donnafrye@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6616
- District 7 Councilmember Jim Madaffer jmadaffer@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6677
- District 8 Councilmember Ben Hueso benhueso@sandiego.gov, (619) 236-6688

For More Information Contact:

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