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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

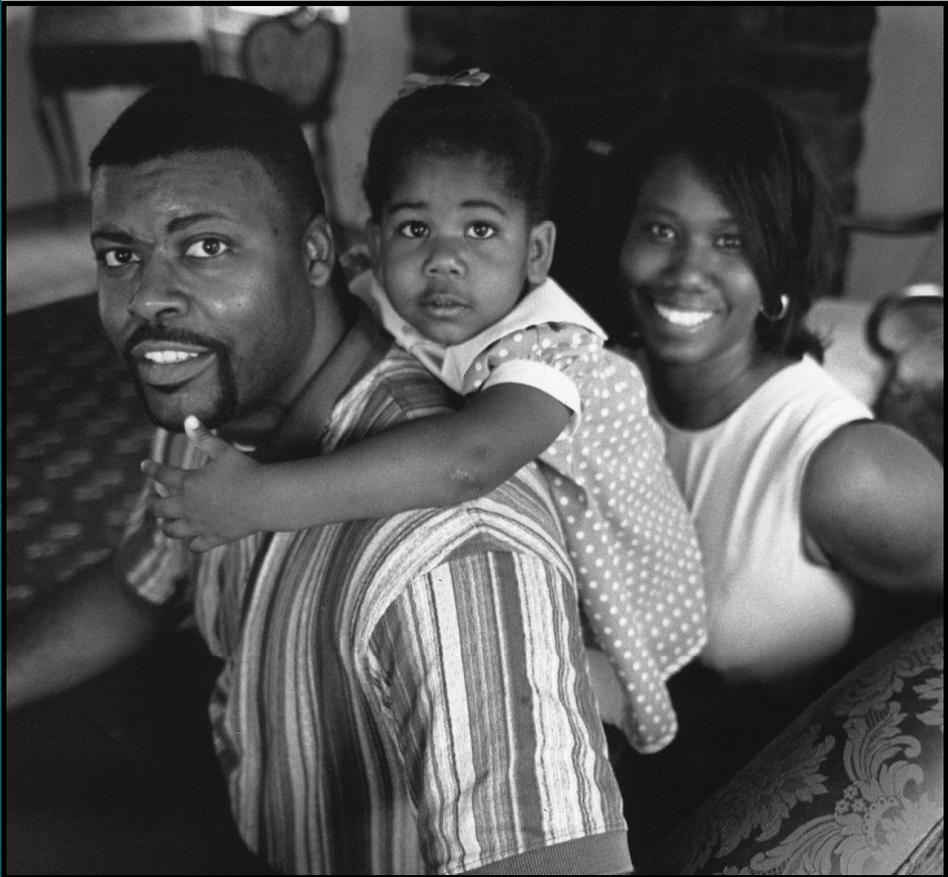
A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a painter's hand holding a brush, applying paint to a wall. In the background, a woman and a young child are looking on. The woman is smiling, while the child has a neutral expression.

## Caution: Lead Paint Handle With Care



**“Lead poisoning is a serious threat to the health of America’s children. Our goal is to make every home in America lead-safe, so all children have the chance to enjoy healthy and productive lives.”**

*Andrew Cuomo, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*





## **HUD wants every home to be a healthy home.**

### **LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT WORKING WITH LEAD PAINT**

- Any home built before 1978 could have lead paint. Homes built before 1960 have the most lead paint.
- Lead paint in good condition usually is not a problem.
- Dangerous lead dust can be released from peeling or damaged paint or by sanding or scraping paint in older homes.
- When working on or remodeling a home with lead paint there are important safety tips you need to follow.

### **KNOW THAT LEAD PAINT CAN POISON CHILDREN**

- Lead is toxic. It can harm a child's brain and cause learning and behavior problems. It can even harm unborn babies.
- Most children are poisoned by lead dust that gets on their hands and then in their mouths.
- Almost one million children under age six in the U.S. suffer from lead poisoning.



## Handle lead paint with care when you paint or repair.

Here are five things you can do:

1. Keep lead dust away from people.
2. Use the right tools.
3. Work safely and clean up lead dust.
4. Don't bring lead dust home with you.
5. Learn the laws about lead and obey them.

## Follow HUD's simple checklist for working safely.

### 1. Keep lead dust away from people.

- Keep children and pregnant women away from the work area.
- Seal off the work area by covering floors, vents, doors and windows with heavy plastic.
- If possible, remove furniture from the room. Cover any remaining furniture with heavy plastic.

### 2. Use the right tools.

- Use vacuum cleaners and power tools with HEPA filters.
- If you use a power sander or grinder, be sure it has a HEPA filter as well as a hood to trap dust.
- Never power wash or sand blast painted surfaces.
- Never use tools that create dust, chips, high heat or fumes.
- Never use open flame torches or heat guns at temperatures above 1100°F.
- Never use paint strippers that contain methylene chloride.



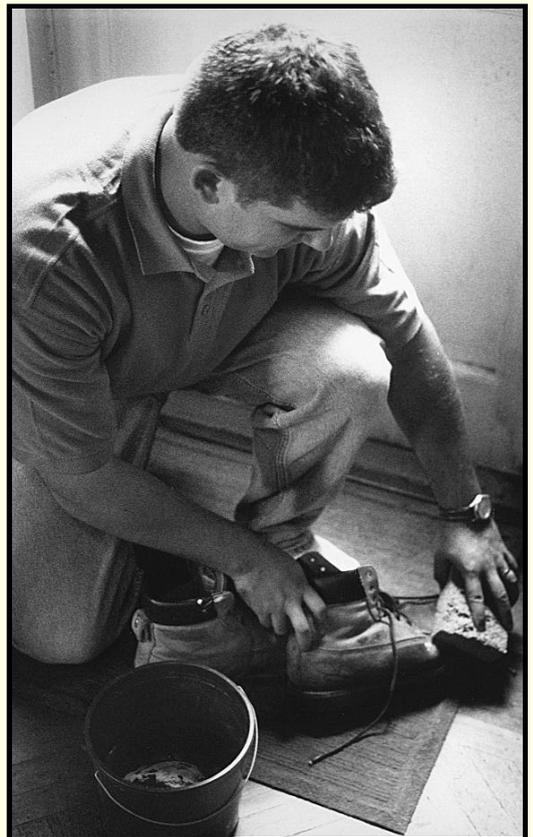


#### 4. Don't bring lead dust home with you.

- Clean your shoes before you leave the work area.
- Change from work clothes before going home.
- Don't wash your work clothes with the family laundry.
- Take a shower and wash your hair at the end of each workday.

#### 3. Work safely and clean up lead dust.

- Fix water damage that can make paint peel.
- Wet down the paint before you sand or scrape to control lead dust.
- Use heavy plastic bags to remove dust and other trash.
- After the job, wash floors and other surfaces with soap and water and rinse with fresh water. Remember lead dust can be too small to see.
- Inform customers about the importance of maintaining the paint in their home.
- Give customers the option to test for lead dust after the job is done. Call 1-888-LEADLIST for a list of lead service providers.





**5. Learn the laws about lead and obey them.**

- Federal law requires contractors to provide a brochure, *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home*, to owners and occupants before starting jobs that involve lead paint. Call 1-800-424-LEAD for free copies.
- Learn what state and local laws apply to you.

**HUD wants every child to have a lead-safe home!**

For more information about making homes lead-safe or to order a free copy of *Lead Paint Safety: A Field Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance, and Renovation Work*, call 1-800-424-LEAD.

For a free brochure on other home safety issues call HUD's Healthy Homes hotline at 1-800-HUDS-FHA or visit HUD's Web site at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov). HUD is on your side.



## Important Numbers

National Lead Information Center: 1-800-424-LEAD

Local Lead Poisoning Prevention Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

State Health Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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