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Environmental Quality

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National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Lead poisoning prevention services available to Utah families

Salt Lake City, Utah – To help raise awareness of the lingering presence of lead in Utah communities, the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is participating in this year’s National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Oct. 20-26.

Once a prevalent element in gasoline, toys and paint, lead is now known to cause serious health problems—especially among young children who may experience life-long mental and physical challenges from minimal lead exposure. However, lead-based paint is still prevalent in Utah due to the number of older (pre-1978) homes in nearly every community.

“Lead-based paint poisoning is entirely preventable,” said Rusty Ruby, compliance manager for DAQ. “By taking some simple precautionary steps, parents can help ensure that their children are safe from avoidable lead exposure to live long and healthy lives.”

Exposure to lead, particularly in childhood, is a key concern for public health officials and health-care providers. The Utah DAQ encourages Utah parents, homeowners and contractors to seek out services to help reduce their own and child exposure to lead.

- Parents can ask their health provider to test their children for lead.
- Homeowners can have their home tested for lead by a private inspection firm. It is recommended to ask for a lead inspection before purchasing a home built before 1978.
- Contractors working in pre-1978 homes are required to certify with the State of Utah and employ lead-safe work practices they learn through required training under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. Homeowners can verify certification with the contractor, or contact the Utah DAQ to verify certification information. A list of certified contractors and companies is available on the Utah DAQ website (www.airquality.utah.gov) by clicking the “Lead-based paint” link.
- Homeowners should familiarize themselves with safe work practices to ensure no lead-based hazards are left following a do-it-yourself home-renovation project in pre-1978 homes. Information is available to homeowners on the Utah DAQ website (www.airquality.utah.gov) by clicking the “Lead-based paint” link.

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