

Does your agricultural labor housing have lead-based paint or asbestos-containing materials?

If you plan to renovate or repair your labor housing, you should be aware that hazardous materials may be present, especially in older dwellings, and that there are rules to protect both the workers and the occupants of the buildings.

Lead - Lead is toxic to humans and animals. In 1978, the federal government banned consumer use of lead-containing paint. If your housing was built before 1978, there is a good chance it has lead-based paint. Lead from paint, including lead-contaminated dust, is one of the most common causes of lead poisoning.

Lead paint is often present in older homes and buildings, sometimes under layers of newer paint. If the paint is in good shape, it's usually not a problem. But, lead-based paint that is peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, damaged, or damp is a hazard, especially when found on surfaces that get a lot of wear-and-tear such as windows, window sills, doors, door frames, stairs, railings, banisters, and porches.



If your workers alter, repair, or demolish structures that have lead-containing paint, you must follow [Division 4/Z 437-004-9600, Lead](#). If any assigned work potentially exposes workers to lead, you must ensure that the work is done according to *Division 3/D, 1926.62, Lead*. For more information about Oregon OSHA's rules for controlling lead exposure, read Oregon OSHA's [Lead in construction quick guide](#).

The Environmental Protection Agency also has rules about preventing lead exposure during renovation, repairing, and painting done on pre-1978 homes or other buildings where children spend time. Before beginning any work on these structures, you should know these requirements and be prepared to follow the specific work practices designed to protect occupants and workers from exposure to lead. More information is available from the [Oregon Health Authority](#).

Asbestos - Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral, which was commonly used in many building products before 1981. These products include siding, roofing, thermal insulation, cement-asbestos pipes, textured sheetrock, and flooring. Asbestos is a carcinogen and exposure occurs when breathing the microscopic fibers that are released when materials are disturbed. Fibers can be disturbed while scraping, grinding, sanding, or when removing the materials during demolition or renovation.



When asbestos is present, special precautions must be taken to prevent exposure to workers and occupants during the work and while cleaning up after the work. When asbestos materials are in good condition, it's sometimes best to leave them in place and to seal them, if possible.

Work that could expose agricultural workers to asbestos must comply with the [Division 4/Z, 437-004-9050, Asbestos](#). For more information about asbestos, read Oregon OSHA's [guide on asbestos abatement](#).

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) also has asbestos rules that apply to landlords and building owners or operators. Information is available from the [Oregon DEQ](#).

Oregon OSHA provides free and confidential consultation services. Contact information is available on our website, at: www.orosha.org/consultation.html or call: 503-378-3272 or toll-free: 1-800-922-2689.