VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Vermont Lead Law Changes for Pre-1978 Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities

October 2022



Since 2010, federal regulations called the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) regulations have required workers to be trained and licensed to use lead-safe work practices when they disturb painted surfaces in pre-1978 buildings. Until recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) governed the RRP regulations in Vermont.

On October 1, 2022, Vermont took over the federal regulations. The Vermont regulations are called the Lead-Safe Renovation, Repair, Painting and Maintenance (RRPM) regulations. The Vermont Department of Health oversees compliance with these regulations and licenses individuals and companies that perform renovation, repair, painting and maintenance work.

What type of work falls under the RRPM regulations?

The RRPM regulations require workers to follow certain lead-safe work practices to minimize the amount and spread of lead paint chips and dust, which can cause lead poisoning.

The regulations apply to all pre-1978 housing (rented or owner-occupied) and child-occupied facilities, and to anyone who is a painter, carpenter, plumber, electrician, weatherization or window replacement contractor, landlord, property manager, or anyone else who disturbs painted surfaces in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities for compensation.

For **rental housing and child care facilities**, Lead-Safe RRPM licenses are required for work that will disturb more than:

- 1 square foot per interior room
- 1 square foot per exterior surface

Child care providers can apply for a free Uncompensated Child Care Operator (UCCO) certification to perform RRPM work on their child care facilities only.

Under Vermont law, all paint, stains and other coatings in pre-1978 buildings are considered lead-based unless tested by a Vermont-licensed lead inspector and the property has been granted an exemption by the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program. Vermont does not allow the use of hardware store lead test kits to verify if lead is present.

What are the training requirements?

Training is required before you can apply for the Lead-Safe RRPM licenses or UCCO certification. There are two initial training courses to take that are good for

five years. To maintain your Lead-Safe RRPM license – and before your previous RRP training certificate expires – you will need to take two refresher training courses every five years. Find out more about the RRPM training requirements at www.healthvermont.gov/RRPM#training or scan the QR code on the left.

What are the licensing requirements?

- **Lead-Safe RRPM Supervisor license** – this license is for an individual who supervises the work onsite, and needs to be renewed every year.
- **Lead-Safe RRPM Firm license** – this license is for the company, and needs to be renewed every five years.
- **Uncompensated Child Care Operator certification** - this certification is for child care providers to perform work on their own facility only, and needs to be renewed every year.

Do I still need to do EMPs (Essential Maintenance Practices)?

Under the new regulations, EMPs are now called **Inspection, Repair and Cleaning (IRC) Practices**. Most requirements remain the same, but a couple have changed.

All property owners of rental housing and child care facilities are still required to have an IRC-certified person do an annual inspection for deteriorated paint, perform a specialized cleaning, and file yearly compliance statements with the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program. The requirements for inspection, cleaning and notification also remain the same.

This is what has changed:

- Only someone who has Vermont Lead-Safe RRPM Supervisor or UCCO credentials can perform repair work on deteriorated surfaces over 1 square foot per interior room or exterior surface.
- IRC training and certification needs to be renewed every five years. Beginning on October 1, 2022, if you took the EMP training and received an EMP certificate more than five years ago, you will need to renew your training by taking the IRC Practices online training. You can find trainings online at www.healthvermont.gov/IRC-training.
- On your annual IRC compliance statement, you will need to include the RRPM license or UCCO certificate number(s) of the person(s) who completed any repair work on your building.

Questions?

Learn more about the RRPM regulations at www.healthvermont.gov/RRPM or scan the QR code on the left.

Contact the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program by emailing ahs.vdhalrpgeneral@vermont.gov or calling 802-863-7220.