



Minnesota  
Pollution  
Control  
Agency

Metro, North  
and South  
Districts,  
Regular  
Facilities  
Sections

# Managing Lead-Contaminated Waste

Waste/W7-02/April 1999

## Environmental Concerns

Lead is often found in older buildings in the following places:

- lead-based paint,
- lead flashings,
- lead-acid batteries, and
- lead pipes.

In a demolition project, exposure to lead can occur through inhalation of contaminated air and through ingestion of contaminated food or water. Lead can affect human health both at low exposure over a long period of time and at high exposure during a short period of time. Lead may affect the immune system, nervous system, blood system and kidneys. Children are especially at risk from exposure to lead.

## Managing Lead-Contaminated Waste

Lead and lead-contaminated waste must be evaluated and managed properly prior to disposal. (Keep records showing how the waste was evaluated and the results.)

**Lead-based paint that is firmly bonded to the substrate** can be managed as normal demolition debris and taken to a permitted demolition debris disposal landfill.

Demolition debris that has lead-based paint attached cannot be used for recycling in a process that would crush or crumble the material effectively releasing the paint from the substrate and potentially creating

emissions of lead. Any recycling use of a material with lead-based paint attached must ensure that no lead contamination or release occurs.

**Lead-based paint that is not attached to the substrate** must be evaluated for hazardous waste characteristics prior to any handling or disposal. The Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) for toxic metals is the test used to determine whether or not the waste is hazardous. Any lead-based paint (or other lead-contaminated material) that has a concentration of 5.0 parts per million or greater using the TCLP is hazardous for lead and must be managed as a hazardous waste. This includes the use of a licensed hazardous waste hauler and transfer of the hazardous waste to a permitted treatment, storage, or disposal facility. Please contact the MPCA at the numbers below for specific assistance. For more information about hazardous waste requirements, request MPCA hazardous waste fact sheet #1.00, Basic Hazardous Waste Requirements for Businesses.

**Lead that is not attached to the substrate but passes the TCLP test** must be collected and disposed of as industrial waste at an industrial or approved mixed municipal landfill. Please contact the MPCA at the numbers below for specific assistance.

**Lead flashing and lead pipes** must be managed as industrial waste — unless the demolition landfill is permitted to accept lead waste.





**Lead-acid batteries** must be managed as a hazardous waste and disposed of through a battery collection system. For more information, request MPCA hazardous waste fact sheet # 4.06, Spent Lead-Acid Batteries — Requirements for Generators.

**Lead-paint abatement project waste** is not addressed in this fact sheet. For more information about lead paint abatement projects contact the MPCA at the numbers below

### For More Information

The MPCA, Minnesota Department of Health and your metropolitan county hazardous waste office have staff available to answer specific questions. In addition, fact sheets are available by calling the appropriate number below or at the MPCA web site listed below. (If accessing on the web, look under *Waste/ Publications/ Publications for Businesses.*) For more information, contact your metropolitan county hazardous waste office or the MPCA office closest to your county.

#### Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Toll free ..... (800) 657-3864  
Brainerd ..... (218) 828-2492  
Detroit Lakes ..... (218) 847-1519  
Duluth ..... (218) 723-4660  
Marshall ..... (507) 537-7146  
Rochester ..... (507) 285-7343  
St. Paul ..... (651) 297-6300  
Lead Disposal  
    Jeff Connell ..... (651) 296-7271  
Lead Paint Abrasive Blasting  
    Jess Richards ..... (651) 282-9885

**MPCA Website:** <http://www.pca.state.mn.us>

#### Minnesota Department of Health

Contractor Certification/License; Health Effects

Doug Benson ..... (651) 215-0881

#### Metro County Hazardous Waste Offices

Anoka County ..... (612) 421-7093  
Carver County ..... (612) 361-1800  
Dakota County ..... (612) 891-7011  
Hennepin County ..... (612) 348-8100  
Ramsey County ..... (651) 773-4466  
Scott County ..... (612) 496-8177  
Washington County ..... (651) 430-6655