

## SECTION 5 PROCEDURES FOR PAINT REMOVAL

### 5.1 GENERAL

Removal methods involving the burning of paint, dust generation or the dispersion of paint flakes and waste are not suitable for removing hazardous paint from residential, public and commercial buildings. As new technologies become available, they should be assessed on the basis of their potential impact on people or the environment. The risks of lead contamination depend on the extent of surface preparation, the scale of the work and the paint removal method to be used. The use of open flame methods to remove lead paint, such as LP Gas or blow torches, will produce lead fumes and toxic gases that are a hazard to the operator and are not to be utilized.

Even where lead paint coatings are not deliberately removed, preparation for repainting or overcoating, such as roughening the surface and removing flaking paint, may present a risk.

Power tools, fitted with vacuum attachments and HEPA filters to control dust generation, are available, and may be suitable for residential, public and commercial applications. Similarly, some industrial hazardous paint removal technologies, as described in AS/NZS 4361.1, might be practicable for larger residential, public or commercial projects.

For some projects, it may also be necessary to sample and test the soil around the work site before work commences, and again on completion of the project, in order to measure the impact of any work on the surrounding environment.

Recommendations covering the protection of workers and the public are given in Section 6, and waste management is covered in Section 7.

### 5.2 CONTAINMENT OF LEAD-BEARING DUST AND WASTE

Measures to ensure that lead dust, fumes and waste will be contained within the immediate work area include the following:

- (a) Placing ground sheets of sufficient size to contain all of the paint waste generated below the work area. If working on a scaffold, a sheet may be fixed underneath the work-level platform to catch falling paint waste. The sheet should be clean (i.e. not be contaminated from previous lead paint management projects) and kept as clean as possible during the work. Disposable plastic sheeting may provide suitable containment.

NOTE: Disposable plastic sheeting is recommended in preference to reusable dust sheets because of the tendency not to clean dust sheets, which may cause cross-contamination. Users should note that plastic sheeting may increase the potential fire hazard.

- (b) Maintaining the ground sheets so that, as soon as a tear is detected, the ground sheet is repaired or replaced.
- (c) Working in such a way as to minimize waste and fume generation, and to prevent the transfer of waste away from the immediate work area. Avoid working when wind or draughts could cause waste to be blown away from the work area, containment or inside the building.
- (d) Using disposable booties and overalls within the work area. These items should be removed before leaving the work area.
- (e) Removing accumulated waste frequently to prevent it spreading from the immediate work area. As a minimum, this should be done on a daily basis using a vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA filter for solid particulate removal, or a liquid vacuum cleaner for liquid waste removal.