Recommended Lead-Safe Work Practices  
For Disturbing Presumed Lead-Based Paint

When disturbing painted surfaces in pre-1978 housing, (including sanding, scraping, opening a wall to make a plumbing / electrical repair, repairing or replacing a window system etc.), it must "presumed" these surfaces contain lead-based paint [LPB], unless actual test results are available that indicate otherwise. Lead-safe work practices are now required to protect workers and residents from possible lead contamination when disturbing > 2 ft. of painted surface area per interior room or > 20 ft. of painted exterior wall surface area (called De minimus standards*). The EPA's Lead-Based Paint Pre-Renovation Education Rule requires the distribution of the EPA Pamphlet, "Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home," to all tenants and obtaining proof of receipt, prior to starting such work (see above). Workers must follow these safe work practices, and wear personal protective clothing, including: **

1) Worker coveralls [#s 1-6 are Cal OSHA requirements for persons hired to do this work]
2) Hair / head coverings
3) Safety glasses / goggles
4) Rubber gloves
5) Shoe coverings (preferably non-skid)
6) Half-face air purifying respirator with HEPA filters***
7) Containment with 6 mil polyethylene sheeting of the room floor, furniture, or exterior ground to prevent lead dust contamination
8) Removal of residents and children from the work area / premises
9) Perform wet scraping / wet sanding; do not use power grinders, sanders, etc., unless equipped with functioning HEPA devices
10) Operate heat guns below 1,100° F to prevent creation of lead paint fumes
11) No eating, smoking, etc., within the work area; thoroughly wash hands with warm water and soap upon leaving the work area to eat, or go home, etc. At job finish, clean up with HEPA vac and wet wipe / mop (as applicable) warm water and detergent - all surfaces within work area, e.g., window sills and troughs, mullions, tops of molding, floor, carpets, furniture, etc., to remove possible lead dust contamination; discard mop water in toilet, but preferably ….
12) At job finish, clean up with HEPA vac and wet wipe / mop (as applicable) warm water and detergent - all surfaces within work area, e.g., window sills and troughs, mullions, tops of molding, floor, carpets, furniture, etc., to remove possible lead dust contamination; discard mop water in toilet, but preferably ….
13) Discard presumed LBP paint scrapings, chips, dust, mop water, etc., via the LA Co. Household Haz. Waste Roundup [Call 888-253-2652 or 888-CLEANLA]
14) Wash personal protective equipment (work clothes, etc.) separately from rest of family's clothing.

* Note: Elements of safe work practices, e.g., containment, wetting work surfaces, dust control, cleaning, etc., should be also be implemented for De minimus areas

** The Contractor is responsible for implementing the Cal OSHA Lead-In-Construction Worker Safety Standards

*** NIOSH-rated dust mask may be used if respirator unavailable; respirator provides far superior protection from inhalation of lead dust and fumes

Related articles:
www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/rrpfactsheet2008.htm
www.lapublichealth.org/lead