

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox Announces Agreement To Protect Against Lead Paint Poisoning

LANSING, Mich., May 12 /PRNewswire/ -- Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox today announced an agreement aimed at educating and warning consumers and families about the risk of lead paint exposure during repainting and other home renovation work. Cox and the attorneys general of 45 other states and five jurisdictions signed the Agreement.

The agreement, reached between the state Attorneys General and the National Paint and Coating association (NPCA), requires paint manufacturers to affix warning labels on paint cans and provide consumer education and training, alerting consumers to the hazards of lead paint exposure and how to avoid it.

By expanding education and warning efforts we can take a big step toward reducing the public health risks associated with lead paint," Cox said. This agreement will help arm the weekend-warrior with the right information to ensure their home improvement project is safe."

While lead paint has not been manufactured or sold since 1978, it still presents a serious health risk to adults and especially young children who are exposed to dust or occupy homes during renovations. A recent Detroit Free Press investigation estimated that 22,000 Michigan children had lead poisoning.

If this agreement prevents even one child from being lead poisoned in Michigan, it will have been worth the effort," Cox added.

The agreement requires both a lead exposure warning on the side of the paint can, as part of the manufacturer's surface preparation instructions, as well as an abbreviated warning either on the top of the can or on a separate "sticker" where the warning is less likely to be obscured after the paint is used. The National Paint and Coatings Association has also agreed to fund and provide consumer education and training courses on lead-safe renovation and repainting to homeowners, contractors, landlords and housing workers. Also under the terms of the agreement, NPCA will develop discount programs for safety equipment.

Lead poisoning stemming from inadequate surface preparation prior to repainting affects children from all social and economic backgrounds. It is imperative that families take the proper precautions to avoid lead poisoning, whether they are repainting a rented apartment or installing a brand new kitchen.

To learn more about working safely with lead paint, consumers should call the Environmental Protection Authority's Lead Information Hotline at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) or log on to www.epa.gov/lead .

SOURCE: Michigan Attorney General