

Fact Sheet

Summary of EPA and other federal reports concerning Need for regulation in residential Renovation and Remodeling

- The *President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children* reported in February 2000 that—
 - **Lead-safe renovation practices are the key step to protecting the largest number of children;**
 - **Dust and soil contaminated from lead paint are now the main sources of lead exposure for children; and**
 - **The benefits of eliminating these lead paint hazards far outweigh the costs.**

- EPA's own *Economic Analysis of Proposed TSCA Section 402(c)(3) Rule* found in February 2002 that an R&R regulatory program would –
 - **Protect 1.4 million children under aged 7 living in 4.9 million residential units;**
 - **Prevent at least 28,000 lead-related illnesses per year; and**
 - **Create a net benefit of between \$2.7 and \$4.1 billion annually.**

In addition, the costs to homeowners would average \$95 per renovation, based upon median costs of \$116 for interior work and \$42 for exterior work.

- The Centers for Disease Control reports that an estimated **434,000 children have high blood lead levels in amounts linked to learning disabilities, behavior problems and other harmful health effects**. The concentrations of at risk children vary but are particularly high in some urban areas. **In Chicago, for example, more than 20% of children under age 5 have blood levels above those associated with harmful health effects.**

- Renovation and remodeling activities create the potential for disturbing significant amounts of lead that could result in occupant exposure if appropriate cleanup and contamination practices are not conducted:
 - **Eighty-eight percent of the workers who performed cleanup activities did not use cleanup methods recommended for use in a lead-contaminated environment;**
 - **Of surveyed workers, 99 percent used dry sweeping but 90 percent of these workers did not use a respirator; and**

- **Sixty-seven percent of the workers had not received any materials on lead hazards and 87 percent had received no lead exposure training.**

###