# **HELP MAKE FRISCO LEAD-SAFE FOR CHILDREN**

Children and Pets require Lead-Safe Play areas to reduce risk

### All children and pets are at risk.

Those at highest risk are children ages 1-3 and small pets that:

- Live or play near the Exide facility
- Live in the oldest parts of Frisco
- Live in areas of high automobile traffic
- Pick at or eat falling plaster or peeling paint
- Play or dig in bare dirt next to an old house
- Live in or near homes where dry-sanding is being done or has been done in the past

Other high risk children are those who:

- Don't wash hands thoroughly before eating
- Put fingers or dirty toys in their mouth
- Chew on woodwork or cribs and toys
- Play with pets that have dirty coats
- Put hands in dust on window sills and ledges



## How to reduce lead-dust in play areas:

#### Outdoors

- Practice good hygiene—wash hands well before eating and after playing outside.
- Do not allow children to play in bare soil. Insist that kids play on grassed or paved areas and not in bare soil next to houses.
- Keep pets and children from digging in soil unless tested and found clean of lead.
- Provide a sandbox or add clean soil for a safe play area. Cover the sandpit when it is not in use.
- Hose down paved areas.
- Clean toys after use outside.

#### Indoors

- Remove shoes upon entering the house to eliminate tracking of soil (with lead-dust) into the house.
- Clean play area often. Don't sweep. Damp mop with mild detergent; rinse thoroughly.
- Always use a vacuum with a high efficiency filtration. Now available at many stores.
- Use a damp cloth for dusting.
- Wash and rinse windowsills and baseboards once each week with dish detergent.
- Keep painted surfaces in good condition.
- Place heavy furniture in front of windows to keep kids away from sills.
- Cover window ledges and exposed paint with duct tape. The tape can be painted.

# Power sanding endangers pets and children

It is illegal to remove lead-based paint by power sanding or burning.

- Pre-1978 houses may contain lead-based paint. Paint removal is extremely hazardous! Power sanding contaminates both outside and inside and contaminates play spaces.
- Children should not live at home during renovation. Arrange with relatives or friends for their care. Mop floors three times to remove dust after all work is complete. Sidewalks must be washed and rinsed to remove lead-dust.
- Some painters fail to protect families and may not be following EPA RRP guidelines. Scraping, collection and removal of loose paint chips is safer than sanding. Sanders with attached HEPA vacuum may be safe if used by welltrained people.
- Inside, it is best to cover lead-based paint with wallpaper, sheet rock, paneling or an encapsulating paint. Seal old wood floors. These actions prevent lead-dust by locking down the lead, sealing the lead paint, and providing cleanable surfaces.
- Outside, new siding or encapsulating paint can be used to lock in lead-based paints.

**Preventing lead poisoning requires the cooperative action of the entire community.** THIS FACT SHEET CAN BE DUPLICATED AND DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY Howard W. Mielke, PhD, Tulane University, New Orleans, 70112