

Letters to the Editor

Testing Through Layers of Paint

To the editor:

Thanks for your interesting article about the lead paint debacle! I have at least one question. A door was installed in 1978 with lead paint. Since then, it had at least three more coats of lead-free paint.

Now what? The folks at LeadCheck say I have to get to that layer for their test swab to indicate lead-positive. But now that the lead paint is “wrapped” in layers of latex paint, it’s basically “wrapped in plastic,” right? How can I test for lead under one or more layers of lead-free paint?

One more question: Did any pre-1978 steel doors have leaded paint? All the photos show old wood doors.

Dan Korver
Flambeau Door
Ladysmith, Wis.

Dan:
Good questions!

- 1. The LeadCheck instructions say to use a sharp utility knife to cut through the paint layers to the bare substrate. When you test that area, the chemical should reveal the presence of any lead in all layers.*
- 2. I am not aware of any garage door manufacturer that used leaded paint on pre-1978 steel doors. The first steel raised-panel doors did not hit the market until 1978, after the federal lead paint ban took effect. So, unless a homeowner repainted such a door with some old lead-based paint, steel raised-panel garage doors should not have any lead paint.*

Tom

What About Insurance?

To the editor:

I thought your lead paint cover story was very interesting. Thank you for helping us work through this challenging process.

One large issue that I didn’t see discussed was the additional insurance required for the certification. We did a preliminary check with our provider and it was around \$6,000 annually for something that may never come up.

We do mostly commercial work and hope we will never need to get involved in this issue, but it seems like just being a door dealer may draw us into the fray.

Jack McMaster
Overhead Door Company of Seattle
Seattle, Wash.

Jack:

We stayed away from the insurance issue because we found that costs may vary widely by state and even by individual markets in each state.

But I’m glad you raised the issue. By publishing your letter, we will encourage dealers to investigate the local costs of insuring lead-safe work.

Tom

Insights from Insider

Tom:

Just a short note to thank you for the information provided in the latest issue of D&AS Insider. All the issues are current and of importance to garage door industry dealers.

We at CSDDA (Central States Door Dealer Association) have been talking about the lead paint issue for the last several weeks, looking for all the information we could find. I also found your article about the Overhead/Wayne-Dalton merger quite interesting.

Thanks for keeping us up-to-date.

Randy Schmitt
All Purpose Door Company
St. Louis, Mo.

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