DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF DRAMA AT YALE

Lead Free Scenery, Props and other Production Materials

Summary

Materials or items that are determined to contain lead will not be allowed to be purchased or used.

Items that are wished to be used for a production that are of considerable age that may contain lead or lead paint, are to be reviewed by the Director of Theatre Safety and Occupational Health.

Items that pose a lead-exposure hazard are to be tested and evaluated by Yale Environmental Health Services (Yale EHS), to verify their safe use in production.

Introduction and Definition

Lead does not break down in the environment and is not easily metabolised in the body. It does not degrade and is not destroyed by combustion. It is identified as a persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemical by the EPA. Once lead is taken into the body, either through ingestion of lead-containing material or inhalation of lead dust or fumes, it can accumulate in the body. It is eliminated very slowly and can mimic calcium and be deposited into bone structures after long-term exposure. By identifying and eliminating the presence of lead in the workplace there can be a reduction in an individual's exposure and accumulation of lead in the body.

Due to the presence of lead in the environment, the potential for exposure to lead cannot be fully eliminated. The goal of this policy is to limit the workplace exposure to lead for DGSD/YRT students, faculty, and staff.

Lead: Lead is a naturally occurring, highly toxic soft metal found in the earth's crust. Lead is very pliable and was used for many years in building products such as pipe, paint, and containers. Lead can also be found in ceramics, dishes, toys and make-up.

Lead Paint: All paint products applied before 1978 have the potential to be lead-based unless testing proves otherwise. Lead-based paint was banned for consumer use nationwide in 1978.

Who is covered?

All Departments, particularly Scenic, Paints.

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What do I need to do?

Lead exposure can be prevented through administrative controls that identify sources of lead and keep them out of the workplace. This will be accomplished by a review of product information and Safety Data Sheets by the Director of Theatre Safety before new materials are purchased or obtained. Materials and items determined to contain lead will not be allowed to be purchased or obtained.

Scenic materials or scenery elements being considered for production use that are of an age or from a source which could reasonably be assumed to contain lead will be reviewed by the Director of Theatre Safety. Scenic materials or scenery elements that might pose a lead-exposure hazard from their planned use (being altered or re-fabricated, or used to consume food or beverages) can be tested by Yale's EHS staff to verify content and to confirm the ability to safely use the scenic materials or scenery elements in a DGSD/YRT production.

Exposure to lead can be minimized by:

- Encapsulating the lead within an item, (such as a latex paint used to seal a lead-based paint)
- By handling lead containing items while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment to protect against exposures, (such as wearing gloves when handling)
- By determining that the intended use of an item will not create an exposure to lead, (such as using dishes that contain lead as a decoration, but not to consume food or beverages)

Relevant Legislation

OSHA-29CFR1910.1025-Toxic and Hazardous Substances: Lead

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10030

Yale University Lead Management Program

http://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/leadpaint%20(1).pdf