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# WOOD

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1<sup>st</sup> QTR 2013

Healthy Indoor Air Quality Assessments

Newsletter Main Topic:

## Lead Facts

WES Services:

### Lead Testing

- ◆ Lead Based Paint
- ◆ Lead in Water
- ◆ Consumer Products
- ◆ Ceramics

Volatile Organic Compound & Chemical Testing:

- ◆ Soil Vapor Intrusion
- ◆ Mercury Vapor
- ◆ Odor Nuisance
- ◆ Formaldehyde Testing
- ◆ Emissions of Combustion Gases
- ◆ Carbon Monoxide & Carbon Dioxide

### Asbestos Testing

- ◆ Acoustic Ceilings
- ◆ HVAC Thermal Insulation
- ◆ Flooring and Mastics
- ◆ Plaster, Gypsum and Stucco Walls and Joint Compound

### Radon Testing

- ◆ EPA short term radon testing for real estate transactions & long term testing for home owners

## **Wood Environmental Services**

Wood Environmental Services (WES), established in 1995 is locally owned and operated by Judy Wood, Air Quality Environmental Scientist, UCSB Environmental Studies/Geography graduate, Certified Asbestos, Lead, Radon and Microbial Assessor. WES is located in Santa Barbara, California with over twenty years experience in the air quality industry, is fully insured and a member of many professional affiliations in the air quality industry. For more information visit [www.WoodEnvironmental.com](http://www.WoodEnvironmental.com)

## **Lead Facts: Did You Know**

EPA states "Lead is a highly toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around our homes. Lead health effects range from behavioral problems and learning disabilities to seizures and death. Children 6 years old and under are most at risk because their bodies are growing quickly."

- ◆ EPA Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) requires companies performing renovations, repairs and painting that disturb pre 1978 paint must be EPA certified and follow lead safe work practices.
- ◆ EPA Violation Enforcement Actions have been issued to landlords, real estate companies, management companies and contractors involving large monetary fines.
- ◆ Lead dust is a hazard in homes created from opening/closing windows and disturbance of painted surfaces by everyday living.
- ◆ Lead pipes and solder can leach lead into drinking water from corrosion especially in pre 1986 plumbing.
- ◆ Many consumer products contain lead especially those imported.
- ◆ Real Estate Notification & Disclosure Rule requires realtors and sellers to provide an EPA approved lead information pamphlet, disclose all lead paint information and provide a 10 day testing period as part of the contractual agreement.
- ◆ Property managers and landlords are required under Federal law to disclose information regarding lead evaluation, hazards, reports and records regarding lead.

**All pre- 1978 homes should be tested for lead paint especially if children are present.**

## **Soil Gas Vapor Intrusion: Emerging Indoor Air Quality Concern**

Vapor intrusion is the migration of volatile chemicals from groundwater and subsurface soil emitting gases that become trapped in structures. Volatile organic compounds (VOC'S) sources include leaking gasoline storage tanks, paints, lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning supplies, pesticides, glues, adhesives, photographic solutions and dry cleaning chemicals that have migrated into the water or soil. Concentrations of many chemicals off-gassing can be up to ten times higher indoors than outdoors and have short and long-term adverse health effects. WES performs comprehensive VOC, chemical and combustion gas testing.

### Mold Assessments

- ◆ Full assessment, testing & moisture intrusion and mold removal recommendations of interior and exterior envelope

### Asthma & Allergen Testing

- ◆ Mold
- ◆ Indoor Air Pollution
- ◆ Pollen
- ◆ Dust Mites
- ◆ Cockroaches
- ◆ Pet Dander

### Green Living

- ◆ Sustainable Building Materials
- ◆ Low Emitting Products and Materials
- ◆ LEED Air Quality Testing

### Rental Maintenance Inspections

#### Rental and Vacation Property Maintenance Inspections

- ◆ Moisture Intrusions
- ◆ Pipe Leaks
- ◆ Drainage Issues

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## **Asbestos Testing**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral used in many building materials prior to 1981. When disturbed, microscopic fibers are released with the potential to become lodged in the lungs causing long-term health effects and lung cancer. State law requires that pre-1981 building materials are tested prior to disturbance.

## **Radon Testing**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas emanating from certain types of bedrock that becomes trapped in structures and can only be detected by radon testing. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is fairly inexpensive to test and elevated radon levels can be easily mitigated. WES performs short-term radon air testing for real estate transactions and long-term radon testing for residential and commercial buildings in addition to water testing following EPA guidelines. For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/>

## **Mold & Medical Bills**

Past studies have linked mold exposure with upper respiratory tract infections, allergic reactions, rashes and asthma attacks. Mold exposure can sensitize individuals and prematurely trigger histamines that cause these health effects. Many symptomatic individuals are not aware that they have been exposed to mold with unexplained, recurring ailments and skyrocketing medical bills. WES provides comprehensive mold assessments, testing and report writing with expert and practical recommendations for correction of moisture intrusions and mold removal.

## **Allergy Season is Here: Asthma & Allergen Testing**

As the number of children and adults with asthma in the United States reaches epidemic proportions, programs are being developed to manage asthma successfully by reducing exposure to triggers in the environment. The American Lung Association's most recent study estimated that 30.2 million Americans have been diagnosed with asthma between 1997 and 2004 and children 5-17 years of age have the highest occurrence. Exposure to allergens causes allergic reactions when the body overproduces immunoglobulin leading to the release of histamines to fight the perceived danger. WES tests for asthma and allergen triggers.

For more information on these topics visit: [www.WoodEnvironmental.com](http://www.WoodEnvironmental.com)

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