



Request for information about lead based paint in Housing New Zealand homes

I refer to your official information request, dated 27 February 2019, for the number of Housing New Zealand properties with lead based paint and in which lead based paint has been removed. I have responded to your questions below, in the order presented.

In order to provide some context to the answers provided, the historic use of lead within the paint industry means that the problems associated with paint containing lead applies to all New Zealand homes as follows:

It may be assumed that pre-1945 interior or exterior domestic paintwork contains a high lead content; pre-1965 paintwork probably does, while pre-1980 paintwork possibly does. Post-1980 paintwork may generally be assumed to have a very low lead content, unless old stock or industrial specification paint was used (inappropriately)¹

Housing New Zealand is not able to state, with certainty, how many properties have paint containing lead. It is generally accepted that while a lead-containing paint film is intact, it presents no hazard.² However, Housing New Zealand assumes the presence of paint containing lead in all properties constructed or installed before 1 January 1997, and takes appropriate precautions, unless records are available confirming the absence of paint containing lead throughout the home. Based on this assumption responses to questions 1 and 2, as at 28 February 2019, are:

1. 'How many Housing NZ properties in Auckland currently have lead based paint?'

- Auckland – (up to) 20,876

2. 'How many Housing NZ properties in NZ currently have lead based paint?'

- All of New Zealand including Auckland – (up to) 52,383

With regard to your questions about the removal of lead based paint, Housing New Zealand has strict procedures under our 'Paint Containing Lead Management and Control' guide³, which we would be happy to provide should you wish to see it.

¹ <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/environmental-case-management-lead-exposed-persons-revised-feb2012.pdf> -[p5]

² Ibid - [p6]

³ HS-214 Paint Containing Lead Management and Control

With regard to your last two questions, due to the way information is captured, it is difficult to determine the number of properties that have had lead paint removed from the interior. Because of this we are not able to provide this information for interior paint works.

We are able to provide numbers on the removal of paint containing lead for exterior paint works. I note that in addition to removal, it is also acceptable to encapsulate paint containing lead using specialised coatings and paint over, in specific situations. This has not been captured in the numbers below.

3. *How many Housing NZ properties in Auckland have had lead based paint removed in the past year?*

- Exterior paint work in the twelve months to 30 June 2018, in properties where removal of lead paint work can be determined: Auckland – 590.

4. *How many Housing NZ properties in NZ have had lead based paint removed in the past year?*

- Exterior paint work in the twelve months to 30 June 2018, in properties where removal of lead paint work can be determined: all of New Zealand including Auckland – 1,135.

Information for Housing New Zealand tenants about paint containing lead can be viewed on our website at:

<https://www.hnzc.co.nz/for-our-tenants-and-their-communities/our-tenants/health-and-safety/poisons-asbestos-and-lead-based-paint/>

Yours sincerely



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