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Angie's List brings National Lead Safety Tour to D.C. Area
Experts to check children's blood-lead levels, train contractors and DIYers

Twenty-four million U.S. homes contain dangerous levels of lead-based paint. And all it takes is a lead particle the size of a **single grain of salt** to cause elevated lead levels, and potentially irreversible brain damage, in a child.

These frightening statistics along with remedies to keep your family 'safe at home', will be discussed when Angie's List continues their national lead testing and safety training program in Washington D.C. on Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Reeves Center at the Corner of 14th and U Street NW in Washington, D.C.

Partnering with the Washington D.C. Department of Health and National Center for Healthy Housing, the Angie's List Lead Safety Tour is designed to help homeowners avoid situations that could irreversibly harm their children and will also offer training to help contractors safely work around lead-based paint. Contractor training will also take place at the event.

The tour was prompted by the findings of an Angie's List investigation that showed a full third of companies whose employees regularly disturb lead paint during the course of their work gave advice that could put people, especially young children, in danger.

Furthermore, a nationwide poll of Angie's List members found that 51 percent live in a home built prior to 1978. Of those members, 75 percent said their contractor failed to warn them about the possible dangers of lead-based paint, and 85 percent never received the pamphlet.

"We find the results of this investigation alarming," said Angie Hicks, founder of Angie's List. "We are concerned that our members are being given incorrect information about lead-based paint. The goal of this tour is to bring together experts who can educate the public about the hazards associated with lead."

Angie's List, the national consumer organization that helps homeowners find reliable help in more than 280 categories of service, including painting and remodeling, is offering the training and testing free to the public. Experts will discuss the dangers that toxic levels of lead pose and will offer:

- Blood-lead level testing for children.
- Two-hour training for contractors who work with lead-based paint.
- Informal seminar for homeowners about what they need to know when hiring a contractor who will disturb lead-based paint.
- Tutorial for do-it-yourselfers who will disturb lead-based paint.

Because lead-based paint is present in so many homes, it poses danger for every income-level. Angie's List CEO, Bill Oesterle, was rehabbing an older home in Indianapolis when his then two-year-old daughter suffered the effects of lead poisoning.

"My family learned firsthand how damaging lead poisoning can be to young children," Oesterle said. "It is important to me that Angie's List helps educate the public and contractors about this issue so that other families can avoid exposing their children to this toxin. This is an avoidable situation, and education is truly our greatest weapon."

The Angie's List Lead Safety Tour will be presented in Boston; Chicago; Indianapolis; Los Angeles; Miami; Philadelphia; Pittsburgh; Portland, Ore.; Providence; San Diego; San Francisco; St. Louis and Washington DC. Additional cities may be added. Visit <http://leadsafety.angieslist.com/> for details on the tour schedule.

Federal housing officials estimate that 24 million American homes contain dangerous levels of lead-based paint, which was commonly used prior to 1978 when it was banned from use. When working on homes built before 1978, contractors are required by federal law to notify owners and tenants that they may be disturbing lead-based paint. The law also requires them to provide homeowners with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's pamphlet, "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home."

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Angie's List is where consumers turn to get the real scoop on local contractors and companies in more than 280 different categories. Currently, more than 600,000 consumers across the U.S. rely on Angie's List to help them find the right contractor or company for the job they need done. Members have unlimited access to the list via Internet or phone; receive the Angie's List magazine, which includes articles on home improvement and maintenance, consumer trends and scam alerts; a monthly newsletter with even more information and coupons; and they can utilize the Angie's List complaint resolution service. Get more information and consumer tips at www.angieslist.com