

New EPA Guidelines

consumer safeguards = big changes for remodelers



Are you constantly looking for new ways to keep your family safe? Going green, saving on energy costs and eliminating contaminants are just several ways families can provide the best living space for their loved ones.

Lead poisoning has been a major concern in America for decades. 40% of homeowners in the United States live in a home that contains lead paint. Even with this shockingly high statistic, since 1970, the percent of children with elevated lead levels in their blood has fallen dramatically from 88% to 1.6% in 2005. The reason for this change has been the phasing out of lead based products, like paint. Educating consumers about lead contamination is a priority for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and for home remodeling firms, like Aspen Home Improvement.

New EPA guidelines are now requiring home improvement companies to

become Lead-Safe Certified in order to provide the best and safest remodeling to their clients. Prospective clients may see these new requirements and assume all companies are compliant with these guidelines. However, that is just not the case. Becoming Lead-Safe Certified is very costly for the company seeking the certification. Each Lead Safe Certified home improvement firm

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must pay several large licensing and registration fees in order to achieve their certification. Because of this, many companies will skip out on the certification, providing remodeling services without adhering to the proper EPA standards. According to the EPA, currently 14,000 of the 236,000 contractors nationwide have been trained.

What does this mean for you?

If you are concerned about lead poisoning for you or your children, you **MUST** look closely to find home improvement firms that are working with the EPA guidelines and have the Lead-Safe Certification. Lead poisoning can have major impacts on your



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"The very best"—a few short words with a huge meaning. That's our goal at Aspen Home Improvement. We never tried to be anything else. Aspen Home Improvement has just recently been awarded the exclusive dealership of the world's most advanced energy-efficient window, the *Starmark*.

Established 20 years ago, Aspen has built a solid foundation and an extensive customer base. We specialize in external products for your home—windows, siding, doors, roofing, decks, sunrooms, soffit, fascia, and gutters.

Our installers are not "Jack of all trades" but *Certified Master Installers*. Aspen prides itself on protecting the environment so much so that we have put in years of research, now being able to provide you with the "greenest window on the planet." Aspen Home Improvement is home of the #1 nationally-rated energy-efficient window. A bold statement, but it's true.

We are a family-owned company you can trust—our non pro-rata warranty applies not only while you own the home but for subsequent owners as well. Should you experience accidental damage to your Aspen windows? No problem, Aspen products and labor are covered for life.

health. These impacts can range from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. (Facts taken directly from EPA.gov) Children below the age of six years are most susceptible to lead poisoning. Expecting mothers should also be very weary of the effects of lead poisoning.

One proactive step you can take is to look for a firm that is certified when replacing windows or doing other types of home remodeling. Lead paint was commonly used on window frames prior to 1978. Constantly opening and closing windows can generate dust, and these contaminated particles make their way into your air. Replacing old windows with new, EPA compliant lead free windows will not only increase your family's safety but will also help save money on energy costs.

Aspen Home Improvement is proud to be a Lead-Safe Certified firm that can answer any questions about window installation and the best ways to save on energy costs. Replacing your windows offers a wealth of savings, most importantly your family's health and safety. And now that we are into the warmer weather, there's no better time!



In fact, when looking to do construction on your home, whether replacing your windows, adding a sunroom or new siding, look for the most temperate weather to begin work. Pennsylvania summers provide generally warm temperatures and great weather for house work.

With summer upon us, you might be thinking: "What are a few things I can do to rejuvenate the look of my home?" For that, I have come up with several options to help you do your own version of *Extreme Makeover—Home Edition* on a reasonable budget!

The room is just too small!

Rather than adding square footage to a room in your home that seems small, consider adding a large replacement window. Windows add a substantial amount of space to a room, not in square footage, but in feel. A bow or garden window can also create a large

amount of space for a fraction of what it would cost to do an addition, or to take out a wall.

When looking for a company to install your new windows, seek out home improvement firms that focus on custom window installation. Custom windows have a wide array of benefits. At Aspen, we work solely in custom window design and installation. All windows

can be designed in different styles, colors, and composition.

Whether you want casement, fixed, or double hung windows, each are possible through custom window design. This also applies to the color and style of the window. Whether you are looking for simply vinyl or a composite, it can be created.



The house looks weathered!

If you are confronting a larger problem, such as the exterior aesthetics of your home, new siding is just the trick for you. Re-siding your older home can completely rejuvenate your house, making it look like new construction while retaining its personal charm!

When choosing to upgrade your siding, choosing vinyl will eliminate all of the maintenance headaches you will have with wood siding. Vinyl does not rot, it's resistant against high winds and best of all, it doesn't need to be repainted every few years! It will not dent, blister, or scratch, providing effortless beauty on the exterior of your home with little to no maintenance.

A great insider tip to use when choosing vinyl siding is to go with a company that uses insulated siding. The benefit of insulated siding is the added protection to your home that you do not get with regular siding. Choose a brand of siding that provides thick insulation, which increases the R-value of your home's walls. The R-value is a measure of thermal resistance used in home and building construction. The higher the R-value, the better the home's insulation is. For example, with an R-Value of 4, just in the insulation within the siding, increases the performance of the home's walls by 25% and reduces noise levels by 30%. Choosing a home improvement firm that offers insulated siding is the best bang for your buck. Company's like Aspen Home Improvement will gladly provide guidance on using insulated siding on your next home siding project should you choose insulated siding.

The front door is from the '50's!

The first thing we see when approaching a house is the front door. Nothing says more about you and the type of home you keep than the doors of the house. In many home remodeling cases the house may be in great shape, but the doors are out of date, weathered, or just boring. Adding new doors all around or just a new front door can dramatically change the appearance of your home, making it welcoming and



aesthetically pleasing for your family and guests.

When you begin your search for the perfect door, there are many new options presented to you. Just as you would do with your windows, working with a company who can provide customization for your door is the best option for getting exactly what you want. This way you will never be forced to settle for "good enough."

Today's technology offers customers a range of doors that provide safety, longevity and low maintenance. Entry doors are now made of fiberglass, steel and composite metals. These high

tech composites are far more valuable than the typical wood door. Many of their manufacturers can provide these composite doors with the look of wood. When looking at the door, there is no visible difference in the simulated wood and a real wood door. By choosing this method, you won't have any of the hassles required with having wood doors: any rotting, splitting, cracking, chipping, or fading. When using a custom door manufacturer, you can also choose the locking system in the door, style of door handle, color, and they can be designed to fit any space! So if you have a non-traditional door space, going custom will solve any fitting problems you envisioned.



When deciding whether or not to do major remodeling on your home, take a minute to look around and see what *exactly* you want to change. Try making a pros and cons list for your home, mapping out what you like and what can be changed. Doing a few alterations such as new windows, doors or siding, can give you a completely new look without having to break the bank. Think wise and collect your tax credit before the time runs out.

If you have any questions on EPA regulations, tax credits or window components we are here to help you.

R&A



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- DOORS
- SIDING
- SOFFIT FASCIA
- GUTTERS
- SUNROOMS
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