



Changes to School Buildings



Many employees feel very comfortable at work. Some feel so comfortable that they think of their worksite as a second home. That feeling is great until they start treating their worksite as their second home. In the past, employees have made changes to their campus, classroom, or office that actually caused damage to the site or created potential harm to students and co-workers.

What the heck are we talking about?

- **Lead**—The paint in schools may contain lead. Not necessarily the visible paint but the paint underneath. When one preps to paint, they scrape and/or sand which turns the stable lead based paint into lead dust. This then requires specialized clean up and monitoring to determine that the lead hazard was removed properly.
- **Egress**—When a school is designed, the Fire Marshall approves the capacity, egress paths and exits for that building. When employees block doors and/or build walls they lengthen egress times which may during an emergency evacuation, potentially costs lives.
- **Asbestos**—Each site has documentation identifying where asbestos containing material is located. Kept in good shape this in not a hazard. Employees have ripped up carpet (without district approval) exposing and damaging the asbestos containing tile underneath. When it is disturbed, a fiber release incident occurs. Similar to lead, this then requires a specialized clean up with subsequent monitoring.
- **Electricity and Water**—Unknowledgeable “do it your selfers” have inadvertently interrupted electrical lines and water pipes when making changes to their worksite. This was dangerous to their well-being, disrupted service and required clean up.

The examples above are only a short list of the problems that occur when an employee does not go through the proper channels for repair/maintenance and alteration at a school site. Keep yourself, students, co-workers and the site itself safe by refraining from doing alterations yourself.



