



Lead Safe World UK contacts the British Coatings Federation (BCF)

The [British Coatings Federation \(BCF\)](#) is the sole UK Trade Association representing the interests of the decorative, industrial and powder coatings, printing inks and wallcovering manufacturers. BCF's members represent 95% of the UK sales of coatings, inks and wallcoverings.

The BCF have been commendably responsible with regard to lead in old paint through their [Paint Safe](#) initiative. This focuses on some basic procedures to be taken when dealing with old paintwork that may contain lead. The PaintSafe web page - <https://www.coatings.org.uk/paintsafe.aspx> - also includes links to other guides on repainting and removal of lead paint for DIY, and professional, painters and decorators. A trifold leaflet has been produced and 20,000 copies have been distributed to trade paint outlets. The BCF also offered to provide us with some leaflets for free, but this was declined because of lack of distribution opportunities.

The BCF have been asked if they would consider recommending to their members that they add a link to the PaintSafe web site to containers and packaging. Their Technical & Membership Administrator has stated that they will discuss this with their members.

A typical warning on current containers is:

Special precautions should be taken during surface preparation of pre-1960s paint surfaces over wood and metal as they may contain harmful lead.

Some might suggest that their statement “Pre-1960s paintwork over wood or metal surfaces may contain harmful lead” could be revised. The 1960s saw the introduction of a voluntary labelling requirement for paint with more than 1.5% lead and lead paint continued to be used as a primer on pre-formed doors and windows ([Hesaan Sheridan, 2018](#)). Lead paint can also be found on surfaces other than wood or metal, e.g. brick walls.

The BCF representative also commented that space can be short on smaller containers. The following revised stated was suggested:

Pre-1990s paint surfaces may contain harmful lead. For advice see paintsafe.org.uk. If in doubt consult a professional.



The decade '1990s' is used because the [European Union ban](#) on adding lead to paint was ratified in the [UK in 1992](#).



FASHIONABLY #distressed

or just *#distressing!*

Chalking and flaking paint can be a source of lead exposure for people, pets and wildlife.
Do your bit by removing lead-based paints.

Lead-Safety Message: Chalking and flaking paint can be a source of lead exposure for people, pets and wildlife. **Do your bit**

by removing lead-based paints. Artist: Lucinda Curran, Building Biologist, EcoHealth Solutions, Melbourne, Australia.

EcoHealth Solutions

Graphic: Winner of the Tilnak photographic mini-shoot prize in 2018 Volcano Art Prize. Title: 2018 VAP Entry. Title: Distressed - Fashionably #Distressed or just #Distressing? **Lead-Safety Message:** Chalking and flaking paint can be a source of lead exposure for people, pets and wildlife. **Do your bit**