



Lead Paint Poisoning Verdict of \$7M Appealed by Sherwin-Williams

Published: April 29th, 2011



Sherwin-Williams is appealing a jury award of \$7 million to a developmentally disabled teen as a result of a [lead paint poisoning lawsuit](#) in Mississippi.

This is the second time the case, which has been pending for more than a decade, will reach the Mississippi Supreme Court.

The original lawsuit was filed in 2000 by Shermerker Pollard, the mother of Trelvion Gaines, in Jefferson County Circuit Court against Sherwin-Williams. The family alleged that Gaines suffered lead poisoning after eating paint chips and inhaling lead paint dust while living at his grandmother's home, which had been painted with Sherwin-Williams paint in the early 1970s.

Sherwin-Williams was initially successful at the trial court level in 2003, but the Mississippi Supreme Court overturned that decision in 2007, ordering a new trial.

In 2009, a jury ruled in favor of Gaines and his mother and [ordered the paint maker to pay the family \\$7 million](#). Sherwin-Williams is now filing an appeal of that decision, in hopes of getting the court to overturn the verdict and find that the company can not be held liable for the boy's illness.

Gaines currently suffers from learning disabilities and only reads at a second-grade level, which his family alleges was caused by exposure to the Sherwin-Williams lead paint.

Sherwin-Williams indicates that they have not used lead in residential paint since 1972 and the paint was banned in the United States in 1978. However, many older homes and apartment buildings throughout the country still have old paint on the walls.

One of the more common causes of lead exposure in the United States is lead-based paint, which can result from children eating paint chips or inhaling lead paint dust in older homes that are poorly maintained.

Exposure to the toxic paint can cause children to suffer lead poisoning, often resulting in nervous system injury, brain damage, seizures or convulsions, growth or mental retardation, coma and even death for young children.



Allweld Mobile Sandblasting

"Specializing in Surface Preparation & Protective Coatings"

www.AllweldSandblasting.com

Since 1984

(604) 299-0932
1 (888) 599-0932

[Lead paint poisoning lawsuits](#) are typically pursued against landlords or homeowners who failed to adequately remove the toxic paint or allowed chipping or flaking paint to be present in homes where young children reside.