

PROTECTING SEATS OF HISTORY

# CASE STUDY:

## Tabernacle Bench Restoration

One of Martha's Vineyard's most cherished landmarks  
protected from the dangers of lead.



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## Executive Summary:

The Vineyard Gazette [reported](#) on April 18, 2016:

“In 1896, when the recently organized Martha’s Vineyard Camp Meeting Association needed chairs to augment the wooden benches in its grand new Tabernacle, members turned to the Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalogue. Right there, on page 642, below the Sears tag line of the day, “Cheapest Supply House on Earth,” was a sturdy, plain wooden model, at a cost of 60 cents. They bought hundreds of them.

Today most of those chairs are still at the historic Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs, chipped, scratched, cracked and many times repaired. So are the benches.”

The application for funding stated:

“There are few items on the Island that have touched the lives of Islanders since 1846 and still exist today. The benches of the Tabernacle are one of those items. Few, if any, long-term residents of Martha’s Vineyard have not sat on those benches. Indeed, their grandparents and great grandparents have sat on those same benches at musicals, performances, graduations, community sings, national celebrations, and memorials.”



## Challenges:

It would be less expensive to simply replace the chairs and benches, but that didn’t seem right to leaders at the camp meeting association. “When you’ve got something that old, yes it’s more expensive to repair,” said Ron



MacLaren, outgoing executive director of association. “We have a tendency when we do that to lose part of that heritage. Once you replace them all with replicas, it’s not the same. It’s a replica.”

Rick Huss, Co-Chair for the Tabernacle Restoration at Martha’s Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, said he takes pride and pleasure in working on a part of history. “Historic is the way to go, but historic costs, the restoration project will include testing for lead paint, a complicated process that also adds to the cost.” Mr. Huss said.

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## How the Product Helped:

*This is the Tabernacle restoration project that your product was used on, the project went well for the process used in the restoration of the historic benches that were treated with your exceptional product.*

*The benches have been around since 1845 and have been painted many times and I chose to use your product during the restoration to protect the safety of the people and environment. Thousands of people will be using and sitting on these benches for years to come. With all the people that will now be using the area I feel real confident that we as an organization have done what we can to protect the public from the exposure to lead paint dust, chips, etc. Thank you all for your help!*

Rick Huss

Co-Chair-Tabernacle Restoration

Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association

## Results:

The *MV Times* [reported](#) on June 14, 2017 that the benches at the Tabernacle are ready for events.



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ECOBOND®, patented lead paint treatment technology, is the premier lead paint solution and surpasses all other lead paint products because it is the **ONLY** product on the market that seals as well as treats lead dust and lead in paint with a Patented Paint-it-on Leave-it-on® Formula. While lead poisoning can cause serious health problems for adults, children are especially vulnerable. ECOBOND®, LLC is the nation's leader in developing and distributing products that improve the protection of human health and safety from the hazards of lead in the home, workplace, and the environment. With over 15 years in patented and proven success, the ECOBOND® family of products have been extensively used in successfully treating lead hazards in over 11,000,000 tons of material while serving over 100,000 customers in the United States and Internationally.

ECOBOND® - Lead Defender® recently announced new research confirming the efficacy of [lead treatment](#) protocols with demonstrated benefits by third party validation of a novel, low cost Lead Contaminated Surface Treatment (LCST). This treatment effectively treats and seals lead contaminated surfaces; thereby mitigating the potential for lead exposure hazards to humans and the environment. To download the full Technical paper titled: "Lead Contaminated Surface Treatment", visit [www.LeadTreatment.com](http://www.LeadTreatment.com)



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