

Facts About Working Safely with Lead Paint

↘ Painting or remodeling a home built before 1978 can disturb lead paint and endanger young children.

↘ Federal law requires contractors to give you a brochure, *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home*, before starting jobs that involve lead paint.

↘ Landlords are required by federal law to give tenants information about lead hazards. State and local laws may also apply.

Q. Where is lead paint found?

A. Most homes built before 1978 have some lead paint.

Homes built before 1960 have the most lead paint. Lead paint can be present on any painted surface, but it is most often found on windows, trim, doors, railings, columns, porches and outside walls. Surfaces that have been repainted may have layers of lead paint underneath. A lead inspection can tell you where lead paint is located.

Q. When is lead paint a hazard?

A. Peeling or damaged paint is dangerous.

Lead dust can be released from peeling or damaged paint or by sanding or scraping paint in older homes. Lead dust settles on floors, window sills and other surfaces where it can get into children's mouths. Lead paint in good condition is usually not a problem.

Q. How does painting or remodeling create lead hazards?

A. Sanding, scraping or otherwise disturbing lead paint can release large amounts of toxic lead dust.

This dust, which may not be visible, can settle on floors and other surfaces where it gets on children's hands and into their mouths.

Q. What do I need to know about hiring a contractor?

A. Choose a contractor who knows how to work safely with lead paint.

Ask these questions:

- **Has the contractor worked safely with lead paint before?**
Ask for references from at least three recent jobs involving homes built before 1978 and speak to each personally. Find out if the contractor was careful to avoid spreading lead dust and cleaned up thoroughly.
- **Has the contractor completed a training program in lead safety?**
Some community colleges and trade associations sponsor this training for contractors. If contractors advertise that they are certified lead abatement contractors, you can check their credentials by calling 1-888-LEADLIST or visit the Web site, www.leadlisting.org.
- **Will the contractor test for lead dust at the end of the job?**
A lead dust test will show if hazards have been left behind.

Q. What is the Lead Disclosure Rule and how does it apply to me?

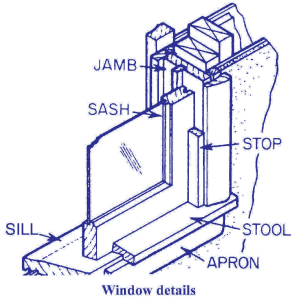
A. The Lead Disclosure Rule requires owners to give tenants a brochure and to provide test results and standard warning language in leases.

This must be done before a new tenant signs a lease and before an existing tenant renews a lease for properties built before 1978. Call 1-800-424-LEAD for free copies of the brochure, the standard warning language and other information about the Lead Disclosure Rule.

Doing It Yourself? Use Hud's Simple Checklist On The Reverse Side



Work Safely with Lead Paint when You Repair, Repaint, or Renovate Your Home or Rental Property



Lead paint can be especially troublesome when found on window frames and sills. Be sure to properly prepare and paint all surfaces of window components, including sills, jambs and sashes, that are blistered, cracked, flaked, scaled or chalked away.

1. Watch out for lead dust.

- Wet down the paint before sanding or scraping to control lead dust.
- Seal off the work area by covering floors, doors, furniture, windows and vents with heavy plastic. If possible, remove furniture from the room. Keep children and pregnant women away from the work area.
- Before leaving the work area, workers should clean or remove their shoes to avoid tracking lead dust around your home.

2. Use the right tools.

- Avoid creating dust or paint chips. A power sander or grinder should have a hood to trap dust and a HEPA vacuum attachment. Do not use power washing or abrasive blasting on painted surfaces.
- When removing old paint, do not use open flame torches or heat guns over 1100°F – high heat creates poisonous fumes. Never use paint strippers that contain methylene chloride.

3. Clean up carefully.

- Roll up or fold plastic sheets to keep dust and chips from escaping.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter to clean all floors and other surfaces where dust can settle. Some hardware stores in Minneapolis have low-cost vacuum rentals for paint chips and dust. Contact the Environmental Health office for information.
- Wash floors, walls and other surfaces with soap and water and rinse with fresh water.
- Dispose of debris, towels and wash cloths in heavy plastic bags. Never burn leaded debris.
- Conduct a lead dust test at the end of the job. Contact an environmental lab for a sampling kit or hire an independent lead professional. Lead dust levels should be no more than 40 micrograms per square foot on floors.
- If levels are higher, clean the area again, then retest.

Rental Property: Keep paint in good shape.

- Fix water damage from leaks and infiltration. Keep the roof in good repair and keep gutters and downspouts clear.
- Tell your tenants to report peeling paint and respond quickly when they do.
- Check for peeling paint and repair it every time you or your workers come on the property.
- Examine units thoroughly at turnover.

HUD Wants Every Child to Have a Lead-Safe Home!

For more information on working safely with lead paint, see the booklet, *Lead Paint Safety: A Field Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance, and Renovation Work*. For a free copy, call 1-800-424-LEAD or click on "Publications" when you visit our web site. For free brochures on this and other home safety issues, call HUD's Healthy Homes hotline at 1-800-HUDS-FHA or visit HUD's web site at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/index.cfm>. HUD is on your side.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, <http://www.hud.gov>.

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