

**What
Home Owners
Need to Know
About Removing
Lead-Based Paint**



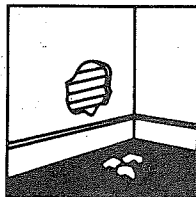
Before the 1970s, household paint often contained lead. As lead paint ages, it can chip or crumble into dust. Exposure to lead-paint dust or chips can cause serious health problems. *Children and pregnant women are at higher risk.* So, if you live in or own an older home, you need to know how to protect yourself and others.

GETTING STARTED

There are many ways to reduce (abate) the hazards of lead-based paint — but **SOME METHODS OF REMOVING PAINT ACTUALLY INCREASE THE RISK OF LEAD EXPOSURE.** It's important to pick the safest method for your project; the goal is to reduce the hazards while creating as little lead dust as possible.

If lead paint on ceilings and walls is in good repair, then painting them or covering them with wallpaper may be all that is needed to keep the lead paint in place.

BUT — if lead paint is chipping or peeling, or if it's on a surface such as a windowsill or stair rail where small children can chew on it, then the lead paint (or the painted material) should be removed or covered. And if the paint has been damaged by other problems, such as water damage due to leaks, then the underlying problem should be fixed first.



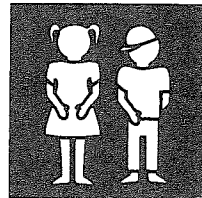
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

BE CAREFUL! During the work, you might stir up dust or create fumes containing lead. This can be very dangerous for adults, children and pets.

You should consider hiring a professional contractor with experience in working safely with lead removal. Whether you're going to do the job yourself or hire somebody, it's **YOUR** responsibility to see that the job is done safely.

Here are some tips:

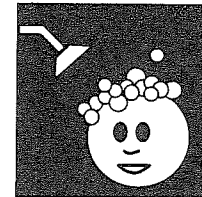
- Children and pregnant women must not do any lead paint removal work, and they should stay out of the work area until clean-up is complete. (See "Clean-Up" section.) If you're not sure you can clean up every day, find temporary living quarters for them until the job is done.



- Work in one room at a time, and seal off the work area from the rest of the house, including any heating or ventilation ducts, using heavy plastic sheets (6-mil thick is good).
- **EVERYTHING** in the room (furniture, rugs, carpets, floors, bedding, drapes, dishware, food, toys, etc.) must be removed, or covered with **TWO** sheets of plastic (again, heavy, 6-mil plastic) and all the seams taped. Plastic used to cover the floor should be secured to the wall or baseboard with duct tape.
- Workers should wear disposable coveralls, shoes, hair covering, goggles and an approved dust mask. Heating lead paint can release lead fumes. If a heat gun is used to soften the old paint, workers should use respirators

recommended by NIOSH (the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) or MSHA (the Mine Safety and Health Administration). (These federal agencies test and approve dust masks and respirators.)

- To avoid ingesting lead, workers should not eat, drink or smoke on the job.
- Workers need to clean up carefully. Before leaving the work area, they should dispose of their coveralls, and remove the dust from their clothes with a brush or HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filtered vacuum cleaner. And workers should shower as soon as they can after work, so they don't spread lead dust around **THEIR** homes.



WHAT TO DO

Enclosure

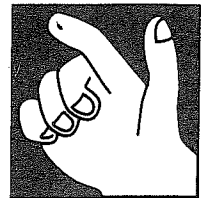
One way of reducing exposure to lead paint is to cover the surface with a new surface — by putting up drywall or by covering windowsills with vinyl or aluminum, for example. This doesn't require the removal of the lead paint, so this is often the easiest solution. But if the new surface is ever removed or damaged, the lead problem returns. Materials used to enclose lead-painted surfaces should be durable and fire resistant, such as gypsum board, aluminum, vinyl, plywood paneling, laminates, acrylic sheets, Plexiglas, fiberglass, or tile.

Encapsulation

Encapsulation is a new technique that bonds materials to the existing painted surface; it's more than just a coat of paint, in that the

What you should know about lead testing...

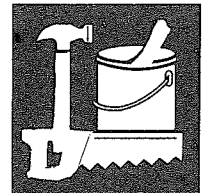
Children who may have been exposed to lead-based paint should have a blood test to see if they have elevated blood levels. All children one and two years of age should be tested. Other children under six years of age should be tested if their doctors think they are at risk.



encapsulant is bonded to the lead paint. Be sure to follow product instructions exactly. Research is continuing on which encapsulants work best.

Replacement

This might be a good time to think about replacement. Sometimes it's easier to replace windows, doors, or woodwork than it is to remove lead-based paint.



Removal

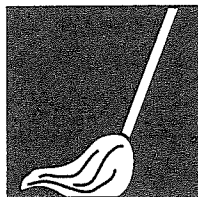
There are several ways to remove lead-based paints:

- **Wire brushing** or **hand scraping** with the aid of a non-flammable solvent or abrasive compound. Liquid paint removers can be used on small areas such as windowsills, doors and woodwork. Read and follow the manufacturers' instructions and warning labels before purchasing and using.

- **Power sanding**, using a sander equipped with a HEPA filter. DO NOT power sand without a HEPA filter to collect the dust.
- **Heat stripping**, using a heat gun and hand scraping. Heat guns pose a fire hazard, and make lead dust and vapors, so they should be used only by experienced workers wearing respirators.
- **Abrasive blasting** can be used on *exterior surfaces*. Exterior work should be done on calm days, and wet-misting or vacuuming should be used to control lead dust and paint chips during blasting. The ground around the building should be protected with heavy (6-mil) plastic sheets. The outer edges of the sheeting should be raised to trap dust, debris, and liquid wastes. Wastes should be disposed of properly, as described below.

CLEAN-UP

Lead abatement will generate lead dust and debris. Unless the house is properly cleaned, *it will be more hazardous after the work than it was before!*



Daily Clean-Up

Every day, the debris should be misted with water, swept up and placed in double 4-mil or 6-mil plastic bags. Then all surfaces should be wet-dusted and wet-mopped. *This step is very important.*

Final Clean-Up

A HEPA-equipped vacuum should be used on all surfaces (floors, walls, ceilings, woodwork,

carpeting, furniture). Then wet-mop hardwood surfaces with a solution containing a heavy-duty household cleaner (preferably one containing EDTA). The wet-mopping should be followed by another HEPA vacuuming. If a HEPA-equipped vacuum isn't available, talk to your local health department about alternatives.

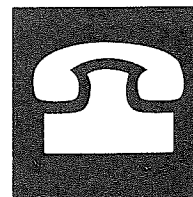
Old rugs and carpets should be replaced, if possible; and all furniture, bedding, rugs, carpets, drapes, etc., that were removed prior to abatement should be cleaned before being brought back in.

DISPOSAL

Debris from lead-based paint removal or renovation may be double-bagged and disposed of in your household trash. Lead debris must *never* be burned. Liquid wastes, including wash water, must never be dumped onto the ground; waste water should be filtered through a cloth filter before dumping into a sanitary sewer or toilet. The filtered debris can go out with the other trash. The mops and cloths used to clean up lead dust and debris should never be used for any other purpose, and should be disposed of when the job is done.

A FINAL WORD

It is safest not to undertake lead abatement on your own. Contact your local health department for information about contractors experienced in lead removal.



State of New York
Department of Health