

Lead-Safe Work Practices

Three Steps to Lead-Safe Renovation

Step 1: Seal off the work area so dust will not escape

Step 2: Minimize dust creation

Step 3: Clean up ALL dust and paint chips

LEAD-SAFE PRACTICES: These practices will minimize lead dust during repair and renovation projects and prevent it from spreading beyond the work area:

- Mist surfaces with water before and during scraping and sanding.
- Mist before drilling and cutting, or use foam, such as shaving cream, to keep dust down.
- Score paint before separating components to prevent paint from chipping when a paint seal is broken.
- Use a heat gun set below 1100°.
- Pry and pull apart components and pull nails instead of pounding out components or nails.
- If you must use power sanding or grinding tools, attach them to a HEPA-filtered vacuum attachment.

DO

UNSAFE PRACTICES: These practices are very dangerous around lead paint and are forbidden under Indiana law:

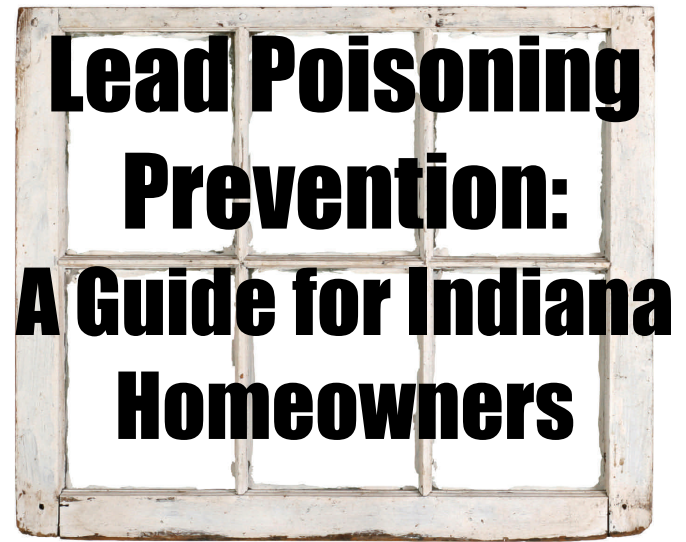
- Don't use an open flame burning or torching.
- Don't use machine sanding, grinding, abrasive blasting or sand-blasting without a HEPA vacuum attachment.
- Don't use a heat gun that operates above 1100° F or chars the paint.
- Don't conduct dry scraping, except with a heat gun or within one foot of an electrical outlet.
- Don't conduct dry sanding, except within one foot of an electrical outlet.
- Don't strip paint with a volatile stripper unless the space is ventilated by outside air. Methylene chloride paint strippers are not recommended.
- Don't leave visible paint chips or debris on the soil, pavement or ground outside a building for more than 48 hours after the work is complete.

DON'T

For more information about lead-safe practices, visit www.ikecoalition.org or www.in.gov/isdh/19155.htm



Improving
Kids' 
Environment



Are you planning to do work on a home built before 1978? It could have lead-based paint.

Read this pamphlet to learn how to protect your family from lead poisoning.

Renovate Right! Hiring a contractor? Federal law requires that contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb painted surfaces in pre-1978 homes be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.



If you're doing the work yourself, learn about lead-safe work practices that will protect young children in your home.

Have your child tested! A simple blood test will show if your child has high levels of lead.

Facts About Lead

What causes lead poisoning? Lead paint could cause lead poisoning if it is peeling, chipping or creating lead dust. Children exposed to lead can have problems learning, paying attention, and controlling violent behavior. Lead can even lower a child's IQ score.

How can I tell if a person is lead poisoned? Only a blood test will tell you. Since lead leaves the blood over time, you cannot easily tell whether a person was lead poisoned in the past.

Why focus on children six or younger? Children under seven are the most at risk because lead in blood can enter their brain and permanently damage it. A pregnant woman also can pass lead to her unborn child.



How many children are lead poisoned in Indiana? State officials estimate 13,000 Indiana children are lead poisoned or at risk of lead poisoning. Nationally, 1 in 100 children is lead poisoned. Lead poisoning can affect any child who spends time in a home or childcare built before 1978.

Who should be tested? All children living or playing in property built before 1978 should be tested. All children eligible for Medicaid must be tested at 12 months and 24 months.

What causes lead poisoning? The most common causes are lead paint dust, lead paint chips, and lead in soil. Children can take in lead dust or contaminated soil found on their toys, blankets, clothes or hands. The dust may be invisible, but only a tiny amount can be enough to poison a child.



Where do you find lead-based paint and dust? Lead paint was prohibited in residential property after 1978, but it remains in many older homes. Lead paint on the outside of a home may contaminate the soil below. Inside a home, windows and doors are the most likely places to find dust from lead-based paint.

How can I know if my home has lead paint? The only way to know for sure is to have it checked by a risk assessor or inspector licensed by the Indiana State Department of Health.

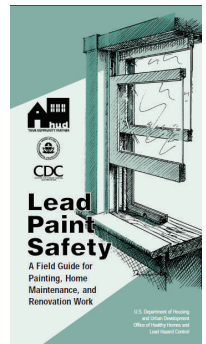
When is lead-based paint a hazard?

If intact, lead-based paint may not be a hazard. When paint chips, peels or creates dust, it becomes dangerous. It is often better to keep the paint in place and maintain it until you do a major renovation, and then use lead-safe work practices.

Renovate Right

If you're planning your own renovation project, make sure you know how to work lead-safe. Call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) and ask for information on how to work safely in a home with lead-based paint.

If you're hiring a contractor, you still need to keep your family safe. Federal law says that all renovation and repair contractors who disrupt more than six square feet of lead paint, replace windows or do any demolition, are required to become Lead-Safe Certified.



- Ask if the contractor is trained to perform lead-safe work practices and to see their training certificate.
- Ask them what lead-safe methods they will use to set up and perform the job.
- Ask if the contractor is aware of the lead renovation rules. Contractors are required to provide you with a copy of U.S. EPA's [Renovate Right](#) pamphlet before beginning work.
- Ask for references from at least three recent jobs involving homes built before 1978.

Always make sure the contract is clear about how the work will be set up, performed, and cleaned.

- Share the results of any previous lead tests with the contractor.
- The contract should specify that workers will follow lead-safe work practices.
- The contract should specify which parts of your home are part of the work area and specify which lead-safe work practices should be used. Your contractor should use plastic and tape to keep all dust and debris in the work area and should minimize spreading that dust to other areas of the home.
- The contract should also require the contractor to clean the work area, verify that it was cleaned adequately, and re-clean it if necessary.

If you think a worker is doing something that is unsafe, you should:

- Direct the contractor to comply with the contract requirements,
- Call your local health or building department,
- Call EPA's hotline 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).

For More Information:

- Indiana State Department of Health: www.in.gov/isdh/19124.htm or 800-433-0746.
- Improving Kids' Environment: www.ikecoalition.org or 317-253-1312
- www.leadfreekids.org