

Lead Fact Sheet for Code Enforcement Officers

In very small amounts, lead can cause irreversible damage to children's developing brains and other body systems. You can help protect our children!

NY State Property Maintenance Code requires that peeling, flaking and chipped paint be eliminated and surfaces repainted. See <https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/document/IPMC2015NY>, sections 304.2 and 305.3. This is not just for aesthetic value; children's futures are at stake if lead paint is deteriorated.



Unfortunately, renovation, repairs, and painting in pre-1978 homes can also result in lead poisoning of children, families, and pets. When you meet face to face with contractors or property owners seeking permits, it is a perfect opportunity to explain current State and Federal laws to ensure lead safe work practices to protect the workers, occupants and the environment.

IT'S THE LAW



Federal law requires contractors that disturb painted surfaces in homes, child care facilities and schools, built before 1978 to be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. Always ask to see your contractors' certification. For more information see <https://www.epa.gov/lead/renovation-repair-and-painting-program>.

Federal law also requires that individuals receive certain information before renovating more than six square feet (2' by 3') of painted surfaces in a room for interior projects or more than twenty square feet (4' by 5') of painted surfaces for exterior projects or window replacement or demolition in housing, child care facilities and schools built before 1978. Renovators must give homeowners and tenants a "THE LEAD-SAFE CERTIFIED GUIDE TO RENOVATE RIGHT" pamphlet before starting work. See <https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-safe-certified-guide-renovate-right>.



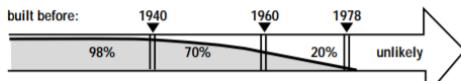
Preparing for a Renovation

- The work areas should not be accessible to occupants while the work occurs
- You may need :
 - A separate pathway for the contractor from the work area
 - Alternative bedroom bathroom and kitchen arrangement if work is being done in those areas
 - A safe place for pets as they can be poisoned by lead and can track lead dust in into other areas of the home
 - All furniture and belongings may have to be moved from the work area while the work is being done. Furniture may need to be wrapped in plastic

Most Old Homes Contain Lead-Based Paint

- Most homes built before 1978 contain some lead-based paint. Lead-based paint is more common and was used more extensively in homes built before 1950.

Probability of a House Containing Lead



- Homes built before 1950 also used paint that had a higher concentration of lead.



During the work

- No eating, drinking, or smoking in the work area
- Contain the work area
 - Use protective plastic sheeting on floor extending 5 foot from the work area. Tape plastic sheeting floor. Reinforce corners with duct tape and a staple
 - Cover furniture with protective plastic sheeting
 - Remove drapes and curtains

Reduce tracking dust

- Gather all supplies necessary for the job
- Wear shoe covers or clean off shoes with a thick pieces of tape
- Remove shoes every time you step off the protective sheeting

Worker Protection

- Always wear safety glasses
- At the end of the work period remove dusty clothes. Wash clothes separately. Or wear disposable protective clothing covers
- Wash hands each time you stop working
- DO NOT USE COMPRESSED AIR TO BLOW DUST OFF CLOTHING
- Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead contaminated dust
- Clean up thoroughly
 - Use a HEPA vacuum to clean up dust and debris on all surfaces, followed by
 - Wet wiping and wet mopping with plenty of rinse water

When the final cleaning is done look around there should not be:

- dust,
- paint chips
- debris in the work area
- If you see any dust, paint chips, or debris, the area must be re-cleaned

from https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_11878.PDF

