

Painting or Remodeling?

Watch out for lead in homes built before 1978

Take steps to avoid Lead Poisoning

Lead is a poison. Lead poisoning can cause developmental problems, learning disabilities and behavior problems. Lead is especially dangerous to children and pregnant women.

Lead is found in paint and varnish in homes built before 1978. Painting and remodeling in these homes may create lead dust, chips, or fumes which can cause lead poisoning.



Find lead hazards in your home before you paint or renovate

Preventing lead poisoning means knowing where lead is from the start.



Assume There is Lead

In pre-1978 buildings, you should assume a painted or varnished surface has lead unless you test it.



Unsure? Take a Sample

Paint chip tests are the easiest way to confirm lead.

Home test kits exist, but negative results should be verified by a certified laboratory.



Get Tested

Our laboratory tests paint chips, and gives guidance on lead-safe projects. Call (608) 266-4821.

Painting and remodeling can be done in ways that don't cause lead poisoning

If you own and live in your home:

- You can do lead work without being certified by the State.

If you work on a home that you don't own:

- You must be certified by the State.

If you're doing exterior work:

- Madison Ordinance requires lead-safe methods during exterior painting and remodeling of pre-1978 homes.

Everyone must be informed:

- Anyone doing work on surfaces that might have lead must notify occupants and property owners of the potential lead hazards.

Whether you're doing the work yourself, or hiring a contractor

Remove paint safely

- Remove as much furniture as you can from the room. Cover the rest with securely taped plastic.
- Tape 6 mil plastic over all doors, windows, exposed surfaces and the work area.
- Turn off heating and air conditioning systems and seal vents with 6 mil plastic.
- Only workers should enter the work zone and they should not track dust out of the area.
- For outdoor work, close windows and doors, remove screens, seal air intakes and cover the ground.
- Don't eat, drink, or smoke while in the work area.
- Wear a NIOSH mask made for lead dust that fits well.
- Wear a hat, shoe covers, and coveralls.
- Change and wash clothes and shower as soon as you're done working.

Leave the scene clean

- Lightly wet all lead dust and chips and place in double plastic garbage bags.
- Lightly wet drop cloths and carefully roll or fold inward and discard in double plastic garbage bags.
- Use a HEPA-filter vacuum to collect paint waste.
- Wash all surfaces including floors, walls, and windows.
- Change rinse water frequently.
- Dispose of towels in plastic bags.
- Homeowners can dispose of lead waste in regular trash. It should be double-bagged with heavy plastic bags and sealed first.
- Contractors must dispose of waste according to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources rules.

Use the right stuff

- Plastic drop cloths
- Duct tape
- Mops and 3 buckets
- All-purpose cleaner
- Spray bottles
- Disposable rags or paper towels
- Heavy duty plastic bags
- HEPA-filter vacuum (see Resources)

Resources

Public Health Madison & Dane County

www.publichealthmdc.com

(608) 266-4821

- Guidance on lead-safe methods and lead poisoning.
- Information on local regulations.
- Lead testing of paint, varnish, and water.

HEPA-Filter Vacuums

To borrow—

- Jeff Raiche-Gill, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (608) 266-9382

To buy—

- Available at most hardware stores