



Lead Paint Can Poison: Protect Your Family When You Repaint or Remodel

In challenging economic times, many people consider remodeling their homes rather than moving. Others are remodeling to improve energy efficiency. Here are some ways to stay safe when you remodel, whether you're hiring a contractor or doing the work yourself.

LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT WORKING SAFELY WITH LEAD PAINT.

- Painting or remodeling a home built before 1978 can disturb lead paint and endanger young children.
- Lead can harm your child's brain, causing lifelong learning and behavior problems.
- Even children who seem healthy can have high levels of lead in their bodies.
- Children under age six are most at risk. Lead can harm an unborn baby, if the mother is exposed to lead.
- Removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family and require large costs for proper cleanup to ensure a lead-safe environment.
- Keep your home a Healthy Home by learning the facts.

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. 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. The only way to know for certain if a surface has been coated with lead-based paint is to test it.

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

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

- Choose a certified lead inspector or risk assessor
(List available at: www.cdph.state.co.us/ap/leadhome.html)
- A lead inspector can inspect all painted surfaces. A lead risk assessor can collect dust and soil samples and provide hazard control options that will make your home safer if lead hazards are identified.
- All contractors should inform you of their plan to address lead hazards, including:
 - Containing the work area
 - Minimizing dust
 - Cleaning thoroughly

Q. What do I need to know about EPA's new rules for working with lead-based paint?

A. New rules adopted by EPA require that if you hire a contractor to remodel your pre-1978 home and the work involves disturbing paint, the contractor is required to give you the *Renovate Right* pamphlet before starting work.

EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program (RRP) rule also requires that, starting in April 2010, contractors performing work that disturbs lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978:

- Must be EPA-certified to work with lead-based paint
- Must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination

Q. What do I need to know if I'm doing the work myself?

A. If working on a home renovation, repair or painting project, in a home built before 1978, protect your family from lead paint hazards by following EPA's simple 7-step process, to be sure you:

- Set up the job safely
- Minimize the creation of dangerous lead dust, and
- Leave the work area clean and safe for residents after completing the job.

Find details of the 7-step process at: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/steps.pdf>



For more information on working safely with lead paint:

Lead Paint Safety: A Field Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance, and Renovation Work. Call 1-800-424-LEAD, or visit

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadsafetybk.pdf>

Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools.

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf>

Contractor information about EPA's RRP program is available at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm#contractors>

For questions about lead and lead-based paint in Denver, call Denver Department of Environmental Health. In Denver dial 3-1-1 to reach Denver's call center. If outside Denver, or calling from a cellular telephone, dial 720-913-1311.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) –

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/leadhome.html> - or - <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/lead/index.html>

For questions on health issues and blood lead testing, call 303-692-2700

This fact sheet available at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/lead/index.html>



**Northeast Denver
Housing Center
303-377-3334**



**Lead Coalition
303-692-3150**



**Groundwork
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Community Action, Environmental Results

303-455-5600

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