

## How do I get more information?

Contact the Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or go to [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) for more information.

- “**Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home**” is available online at [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadpdf.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadpdf.pdf).
- “**Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home**” is available at [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/rrpamph.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/rrpamph.pdf).
- “**Lead Paint Can Poison: Is Your Family at Risk?**” US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. [www.hud.gov/offices/lead/outreach/parents.pdf](http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/outreach/parents.pdf).
- “**Facts About Lead Based Paint**” Idaho Department of Health & Welfare. [www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Rainbow/Documents/health/lead\\_based\\_paint.pdf](http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Rainbow/Documents/health/lead_based_paint.pdf).

## How do I find someone qualified to test my home for lead-based paint?

- **Find a local Certified Abatement Firm**  
[http://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/search.cfm?Applicant\\_Type=firm](http://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/search.cfm?Applicant_Type=firm).
- Call 1-800-424-LEAD or TDD 1-800-526-5456



### Planning & Development Services

150 N. Capitol Blvd  
P. O. Box 500  
Boise, Idaho 83701-0500

Phone: (208) 384-3830  
Fax: (208) 388-4715  
TDD/TTY: (800) 377-3529  
[www.cityofboise.org/pds](http://www.cityofboise.org/pds)

# Homeowners & Lead-Based Paint

Should You Be Concerned  
When Remodeling Your  
Older Home?



# Should You Be Concerned About Lead-Based Paint?

## Exposure to lead-based paint

Many homes and apartments built before 1978 contain lead-based paint. If not conducted properly, certain types of renovations can spread lead from paint and dust throughout your home. Lead from paint, chips and dust can pose serious health hazards, especially to children under age six and pregnant women.

Should you be concerned about lead-based paint in your home? Yes, if:

- Work involves a home built before 1978.
- Work will disturb more than two square feet of painted surface
- Work is done by a remodeler or contractor
- You're a Do-It-Yourselfer

## Why should I be concerned?

Renovation and remodeling can produce a lot of dust that may contain lead and spread it in and around your home. Lead-based paint is poisonous. **You may unknowingly contaminate your home, yard and neighbor's property, and expose yourself, your kids and others to lead while creating a liability for yourself.**

Even if lead-based paint has been covered with new paint or another covering, cracked or chipped painted surfaces can expose the lead-based paint. Dry sanding, scraping, brushing or blasting lead-based paint (including pressure

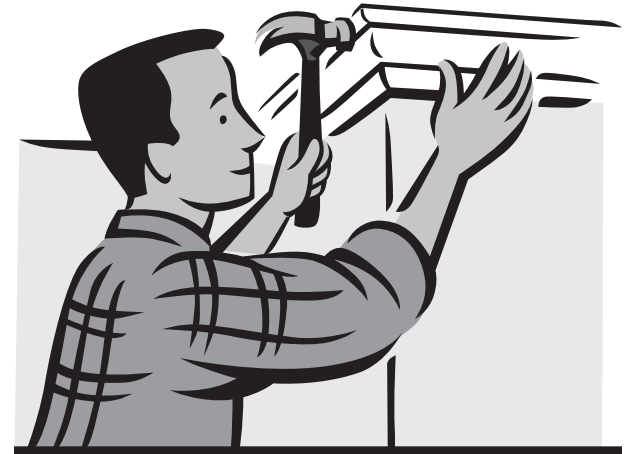
washing) can create lead hazards, paint dust and chips. Stripping lead-based paint with open flame torches is especially dangerous.

The smallest lead dust particles cannot be seen but they can get into the body. The dust and chips from lead-based paint are dangerous when swallowed or inhaled. **Health effects to children can include behavioral and learning problems, hyperactivity, ADD, slowed growth, hearing problems, headaches, brain damage and reduced IQ.** In adults, high lead levels can cause high blood pressure, headaches, digestive problems, memory and concentration problems, kidney damage, mood changes, nerve disorders, sleep disturbances, and muscle or joint pain. Lead can also affect the ability of both women and men to have healthy children. A single, very high exposure to lead can cause lead poisoning.

## What can I do?

It is extremely important that you use all the methods described in the EPA pamphlet "*Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home.*" Unless you can follow all of the work practices and safety precautions, you should hire professionals to do your renovation or remodeling.

If you hire remodeling professionals, make sure they have the training, experience and EPA certifications for dealing with the hazards of



**If not conducted properly, certain types of renovations can release lead dust.**

lead-based paint. Contractors must also comply with the Lead Pre-Renovation Rule (PRE) Rule. This requires them to inform consumers of the hazards of lead by providing you with the *must-read* EPA pamphlet "*Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home.*"

## What kind of work is covered?\*

- Carpentry
- Painting (interior and exterior)
- Electricians and Plumbers
- Home Improvement Contractors
- Any work that disturbs paint surfaces

\* Note: The EPA is proposing new rules that will expand the kinds of work that is covered. To learn more: [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/regulation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/regulation.htm)