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# Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home

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United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



United States  
Consumer Product  
Safety Commission

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CONSUMER PRODUCT  
SAFETY COMMISSION



United States  
Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

## Are You Planning to Buy or Rent a Home Built Before 1978?

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Did you know that many homes built before 1978 have **lead-based paint**? Lead from paint, chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards.

### Read this entire brochure to learn:

- How lead gets into the body
- How lead affects health
- What you can do to protect your family
- Where to go for more information

### Before renting or buying a pre-1978 home or apartment, federal law requires:

- Sellers must disclose known information on lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards before selling a house.
- Real estate sales contracts must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint. Buyers have up to 10 days to check for lead.
- Landlords must disclose known information on lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. Leases must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint.

### If undertaking renovations, repairs, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or apartment:

- Read EPA's pamphlet, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*, to learn about the lead-safe work practices that contractors are required to follow when working in your home (see page 12).



## Simple Steps to Protect Your Family from Lead Hazards

### If you think your home has lead-based paint:

- Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.
- Always keep painted surfaces in good condition to minimize deterioration.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards. Find a certified inspector or risk assessor at [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead).
- Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe certified renovation firms.
- Before buying, renting, or renovating your home, have it checked for lead-based paint.
- Consult your health care provider about testing your children for lead. Your pediatrician can check for lead with a simple blood test.
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.
- Remove shoes or wipe soil off shoes before entering your house.

## Lead Gets into the Body in Many Ways

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### Adults and children can get lead into their bodies if they:

- Breathe in lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs, or painting that disturb painted surfaces).
- Swallow lead dust that has settled on food, food preparation surfaces, and other places.
- Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead.

### Lead is especially dangerous to children under the age of 6.

- At this age, children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead.
- Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. These objects can have lead dust on them.



### Women of childbearing age should know that lead is dangerous to a developing fetus.

- Women with a high lead level in their system before or during pregnancy risk exposing the fetus to lead through the placenta during fetal development.

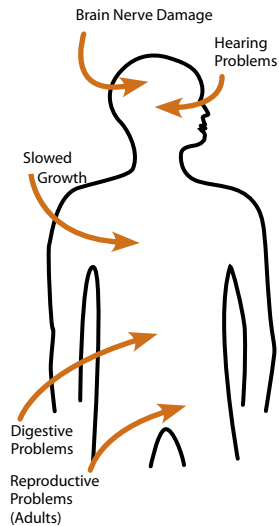
## Health Effects of Lead

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**Lead affects the body in many ways.** It is important to know that even exposure to low levels of lead can severely harm children.

### **In children, exposure to lead can cause:**

- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention-deficit disorder, and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language, and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage



While low-lead exposure is most common, exposure to high amounts of lead can have devastating effects on children, including seizures, unconsciousness, and in some cases, death.

Although children are especially susceptible to lead exposure, lead can be dangerous for adults, too.

### **In adults, exposure to lead can cause:**

- Harm to a developing fetus
- Increased chance of high blood pressure during pregnancy
- Fertility problems (in men and women)
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems
- Nerve disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pain

## Check Your Family for Lead

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**Get your children and home tested if you think your home has lead.**

Children's blood lead levels tend to increase rapidly from 6 to 12 months of age, and tend to peak at 18 to 24 months of age.

Consult your doctor for advice on testing your children. A simple blood test can detect lead. Blood lead tests are usually recommended for:

- Children at ages 1 and 2
- Children or other family members who have been exposed to high levels of lead
- Children who should be tested under your state or local health screening plan

**Your doctor can explain what the test results mean and if more testing will be needed.**

## Where Lead-Based Paint Is Found

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In general, the older your home or childcare facility, the more likely it has lead-based paint.<sup>1</sup>

**Many homes, including private, federally-assisted, federally-owned housing, and childcare facilities built before 1978 have lead-based paint.** In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint.<sup>2</sup>

Learn how to determine if paint is lead-based paint on page 7.

### **Lead can be found:**

- In homes and childcare facilities in the city, country, or suburbs,
- In private and public single-family homes and apartments,
- On surfaces inside and outside of the house, and
- In soil around a home. (Soil can pick up lead from exterior paint or other sources, such as past use of leaded gas in cars.)

Learn more about where lead is found at [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead).

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<sup>1</sup> “Lead-based paint” is currently defined by the federal government as paint with lead levels greater than or equal to 1.0 milligram per square centimeter (mg/cm<sup>2</sup>), or more than 0.5% by weight.

<sup>2</sup> “Lead-containing paint” is currently defined by the federal government as lead in new dried paint in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

# Identifying Lead-Based Paint and Lead-Based Paint Hazards

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**Deteriorated lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, or damaged paint)** is a hazard and needs immediate attention. **Lead-based paint** may also be a hazard when found on surfaces that children can chew or that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

- On windows and window sills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters, and porches

**Lead-based paint is usually not a hazard if it is in good condition** and if it is not on an impact or friction surface like a window.

**Lead dust** can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. Lead dust also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together. Lead paint chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can reenter the air when the home is vacuumed or swept, or when people walk through it. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in dust as hazardous:

- 40 micrograms per square foot ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ ) and higher for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  and higher for interior window sills

**Lead in soil** can be a hazard when children play in bare soil or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in soil as hazardous:

- 400 parts per million (ppm) and higher in play areas of bare soil
- 1,200 ppm (average) and higher in bare soil in the remainder of the yard

**Remember, lead from paint chips—which you can see—and lead dust—which you may not be able to see—both can be hazards.**

The only way to find out if paint, dust, or soil lead hazards exist is to test for them. The next page describes how to do this.



## Checking Your Home for Lead

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You can get your home tested for lead in several different ways:

- A lead-based paint **inspection** tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether your home currently has lead hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a lead-based paint inspector, will conduct a paint inspection using methods, such as:

- Portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine
- Lab tests of paint samples

- A **risk assessment** tells you if your home currently has any lead hazards from lead in paint, dust, or soil. It also tells you what actions to take to address any hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a risk assessor, will:

- Sample paint that is deteriorated on doors, windows, floors, stairs, and walls
- Sample dust near painted surfaces and sample bare soil in the yard
- Get lab tests of paint, dust, and soil samples

- A combination inspection and risk assessment tells you if your home has any lead-based paint and if your home has any lead hazards, and where both are located.

Be sure to read the report provided to you after your inspection or risk assessment is completed, and ask questions about anything you do not understand.



## Checking Your Home for Lead, continued

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In preparing for renovation, repair, or painting work in a pre-1978 home, Lead-Safe Certified renovators (see page 12) may:

- Take paint chip samples to determine if lead-based paint is present in the area planned for renovation and send them to an EPA-recognized lead lab for analysis. In housing receiving federal assistance, the person collecting these samples must be a certified lead-based paint inspector or risk assessor
- Use EPA-recognized tests kits to determine if lead-based paint is absent (but not in housing receiving federal assistance)
- Presume that lead-based paint is present and use lead-safe work practices

There are state and federal programs in place to ensure that testing is done safely, reliably, and effectively. Contact your state or local agency for more information, visit [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead), or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)** for a list of contacts in your area.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

## What You Can Do Now to Protect Your Family

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**If you suspect that your house has lead-based paint hazards, you can take some immediate steps to reduce your family's risk:**

- If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
- Keep painted surfaces clean and free of dust. Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. (Remember: never mix ammonia and bleach products together because they can form a dangerous gas.)
- Carefully clean up paint chips immediately without creating dust.
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads often during cleaning of dirty or dusty areas, and again afterward.
- Wash your hands and your children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time.
- Keep play areas clean. Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys, and stuffed animals regularly.
- Keep children from chewing window sills or other painted surfaces, or eating soil.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe Certified renovation firms (see page 12).
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Make sure children eat nutritious, low-fat meals high in iron, and calcium, such as spinach and dairy products. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

## Reducing Lead Hazards

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**Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house.**

- In addition to day-to-day cleaning and good nutrition, you can **temporarily** reduce lead-based paint hazards by taking actions, such as repairing damaged painted surfaces and planting grass to cover lead-contaminated soil. These actions are not permanent solutions and will need ongoing attention.
- You can minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing, or painting by hiring an EPA- or state-certified renovator who is trained in the use of lead-safe work practices. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, learn how to use lead-safe work practices in your home.
- To remove lead hazards permanently, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement (or permanent hazard elimination) methods include removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Just painting over the hazard with regular paint is not permanent control.



**Always use a certified contractor who is trained to address lead hazards safely.**

- Hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm (see page 12) to perform renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects that disturb painted surfaces.
- To correct lead hazards permanently, hire a certified lead abatement contractor. This will ensure your contractor knows how to work safely and has the proper equipment to clean up thoroughly.

Certified contractors will employ qualified workers and follow strict safety rules as set by their state or by the federal government.

## Reducing Lead Hazards, continued

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**If your home has had lead abatement work done** or if the housing is receiving federal assistance, once the work is completed, dust cleanup activities must be conducted until clearance testing indicates that lead dust levels are below the following levels:

- 40 micrograms per square foot ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ ) for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  for interior windows sills
- 400  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$  for window troughs

For help in locating certified lead abatement professionals in your area, call your state or local agency (see pages 14 and 15), or visit [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead), or call 1-800-424-LEAD.

## Renovating, Repairing or Painting a Home with Lead-Based Paint

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**If you hire a contractor to conduct renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or childcare facility (such as pre-school and kindergarten), your contractor must:**

- Be a Lead-Safe Certified firm approved by EPA or an EPA-authorized state program
- Use qualified trained individuals (Lead-Safe Certified renovators) who follow specific lead-safe work practices to prevent lead contamination
- Provide a copy of EPA's lead hazard information document, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*



**RRP contractors working in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities must follow lead-safe work practices that:**

- **Contain the work area.** The area must be contained so that dust and debris do not escape from the work area. Warning signs must be put up, and plastic or other impermeable material and tape must be used.
- **Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.** Some methods generate so much lead-contaminated dust that their use is prohibited. They are:
  - Open-flame burning or torching
  - Sanding, grinding, planing, needle gunning, or blasting with power tools and equipment not equipped with a shroud and HEPA vacuum attachment
  - Using a heat gun at temperatures greater than 1100°F
- **Clean up thoroughly.** The work area should be cleaned up daily. When all the work is done, the area must be cleaned up using special cleaning methods.
- **Dispose of waste properly.** Collect and seal waste in a heavy duty bag or sheeting. When transported, ensure that waste is contained to prevent release of dust and debris.

To learn more about EPA's requirements for RRP projects, visit [epa.gov/getleadsafe](http://epa.gov/getleadsafe), or read *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*.

## Other Sources of Lead

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### Lead in Drinking Water

The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures.

Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986.

You can't smell or taste lead in drinking water.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, have your water tested.

Remember older homes with a private well can also have plumbing materials that contain lead.

### Important Steps You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- If you use a filter certified to remove lead, don't forget to read the directions to learn when to change the cartridge. Using a filter after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead.

Contact your water company to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead. Your area's water company can also provide information about the lead levels in your system's drinking water.

For more information about lead in drinking water, please contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have other questions about lead poisoning prevention, call 1-800 424-LEAD.\*

Call your local health department or water company to find out about testing your water, or visit [epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater) for EPA's lead in drinking water information. Some states or utilities offer programs to pay for water testing for residents. Contact your state or local water company to learn more.

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\* Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

## Other Sources of Lead, continued

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- **Lead smelters** or other industries that release lead into the air.
- **Your job.** If you work with lead, you could bring it home on your body or clothes. Shower and change clothes before coming home. Launder your work clothes separately from the rest of your family's clothes.
- **Hobbies** that use lead, such as making pottery or stained glass, or refinishing furniture. Call your local health department for information about hobbies that may use lead.
- Old **toys** and **furniture** may have been painted with lead-containing paint. Older toys and other children's products may have parts that contain lead.<sup>4</sup>
- Food and liquids cooked or stored in **lead crystal** or **lead-glazed pottery or porcelain** may contain lead.
- Folk remedies, such as "**greta**" and "**azarcon,**" used to treat an upset stomach.

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<sup>4</sup> In 1978, the federal government banned toys, other children's products, and furniture with lead-containing paint. In 2008, the federal government banned lead in most children's products. The federal government currently bans lead in excess of 100 ppm by weight in most children's products.



## For More Information

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### **The National Lead Information Center**

Learn how to protect children from lead poisoning and get other information about lead hazards on the Web at [epa.gov/lead](https://epa.gov/lead) and [hud.gov/lead](https://hud.gov/lead), or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)**.

### **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline**

For information about lead in drinking water, call **1-800-426-4791**, or visit [epa.gov/safewater](https://epa.gov/safewater) for information about lead in drinking water.

### **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Hotline**

For information on lead in toys and other consumer products, or to report an unsafe consumer product or a product-related injury, call **1-800-638-2772**, or visit CPSC's website at [cpsc.gov](https://cpsc.gov) or [saferproducts.gov](https://saferproducts.gov).

### **State and Local Health and Environmental Agencies**

Some states, tribes, and cities have their own rules related to lead-based paint. Check with your local agency to see which laws apply to you. Most agencies can also provide information on finding a lead abatement firm in your area, and on possible sources of financial aid for reducing lead hazards. Receive up-to-date address and phone information for your state or local contacts on the Web at [epa.gov/lead](https://epa.gov/lead), or contact the National Lead Information Center at **1-800-424-LEAD**.

Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access any of the phone numbers in this brochure through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at **1-800-877-8339**.

# U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

## Regional Offices

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The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Your Regional EPA Office can provide further information regarding regulations and lead protection programs.

**Region 1** (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, OES 05-4  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
(888) 372-7341

**Region 2** (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue  
Building 205, Mail Stop 225  
Edison, NJ 08837-3679  
(732) 321-6671

**Region 3** (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, DC, West Virginia)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 3  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 814-2088

**Region 4** (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
AFC Tower, 12th Floor, Air, Pesticides & Toxics  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 562-8998

**Region 5** (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 5 (DT-8J)  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3666  
(312) 886-7836

**Region 6** (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and 66 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
(214) 665-2704

**Region 7** (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 7  
11201 Renner Blvd.  
WWPD/TOPE  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
(800) 223-0425

**Region 8** (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop St.  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 312-6966

**Region 9** (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (CMD-4-2)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 947-4280

**Region 10** (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

Regional Lead Contact  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
Solid Waste & Toxics Unit (WCM-128)  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-1200

## Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

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The CPSC protects the public against unreasonable risk of injury from consumer products through education, safety standards activities, and enforcement. Contact CPSC for further information regarding consumer product safety and regulations.

### CPSC

4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4421  
1-800-638-2772

[cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov) or [saferproducts.gov](http://saferproducts.gov)

## U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. Contact HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control for further information regarding the Lead Safe Housing Rule, which protects families in pre-1978 assisted housing, and for the lead hazard control and research grant programs.

### HUD

451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8236  
Washington, DC 20410-3000  
(202) 402-7698

[hud.gov/offices/lead/](http://hud.gov/offices/lead/)

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## Rhode Island Contacts

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### Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)

To learn about:

- Lead training courses
- Licensing requirements for lead professionals
- Lead-safe work practices
- Lead poisoning screening for children Health

Information Line

**401-222-5960**/RI Relay 711

[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

### Department of Environmental Management (DEM)

To learn about:

- DEM Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 24: Removal of Lead-Based Paint from Exterior Surfaces

[www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)

Office of Compliance and Inspection

**401-222-1360** for outdoor residential lead-based paint

Office of Air Resources

**401-222-2808** for all other non-residential structures

### Housing Resources Commission (HRC)

To learn about:

- The Lead Hazard Mitigation Law
- Rule for Landlords

Office of Healthy Housing

**401-222-4892**

[www.ohcd.ri.gov](http://www.ohcd.ri.gov)

# What You Should Know about the Rhode Island Lead Law

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## Lead disclosure

Rhode Island landlords must meet federal disclosure requirements and give tenants a copy of this document, *What You Should Know about the Rhode Island Lead Law*.

You can find the federally required Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home and the Rhode Island insert at <http://www.health.ri.gov/materialbyothers/LeadPoisoningProtectYourFamily.pdf>.

Landlords must also give tenants the name and contact information of the person who maintains the property. Landlords who do not live in Rhode Island must file a “designation of agent” with the Rhode Island Secretary of State and with the city or town clerk where the property is located.

## Renting homes built before 1978

The *Rhode Island Lead Hazard Mitigation Act* requires landlords to have a *Certificate of Conformance* for most rental units. To learn more, go to <http://ohcd.ri.gov/lead-healthy-housing/>.

## Checking your family for lead

All children who live in Rhode Island must be screened at least twice for blood lead levels before they are 36 months old. To learn more, go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/healthrisks/poisoning/lead/for/parents/>.

## Where lead is found

Unless a test by a licensed Lead Inspector or certified Lead Renovator shows that the paint is not lead based, all surfaces painted before 1978 are assumed to be lead-based paint.

Lead can also be in soil, dust in the home, and drinking water.

You should also check to see if the pipes in your home are made of lead.

RIDOH's standards for lead in soil differ from federal standards:

Less than 150 ppm	Lead free, recommended for fruit and vegetable gardens
150 to less than 400 ppm	Lead safe for uncovered soil in any area
More than 400 ppm	Lead hazard for uncovered soil in any area

The RIDOH-approved treatments for soil hazards depend on the lead concentration levels.

### **Identifying lead hazards**

Damaged paint and uncovered soil must be tested to find out if the lead levels are below RIDOH's lead-safe limits. If damaged paint on pre-1978 building parts and all uncovered soil are not tested, they are assumed to be unsafe. Damaged paint includes paint that is loose, flaking, peeling, chipping, chalking, blistering, or rubbing.

### **Checking your home for lead**

Rhode Island has two types of inspections:

#### **1. Housing Resources Commission Independent Clearance Inspection**

This is mainly a visual inspection. The inspector makes sure there is no damaged paint and no uncovered soil in a play area or within five feet of a pre-1978 painted structure. If the paint is not damaged and the soil is covered, the inspector will collect dust wipe samples from inside.

If the dust sample results are lower than RIDOH's lead-safe limit, the landlord will get a *Certificate of Conformance*. The certificate is required for most residential rental units. It is good for two years. The landlord must renew it to confirm that the paint is still undamaged, and the soil is covered.

**2. RIDOH Comprehensive Environmental Lead Inspection** This is a surface-by-surface investigation. An inspector checks for lead in paint, soil, dust in the home, and drinking water. If the paint, soil, dust, and water test results are below RIDOH's lead-safe limits, the landlord will get **one** of these two *Lead Safe Certificates*:

- **Conditional Lead Safe Certificate:** Lead-based paint was found to be in a lead-safe condition. This means it is undamaged or covered and uncovered soil is below the RIDOH lead-safe limits. The certificate is good for two years. Re-inspections must show that the lead-based paint is intact and that approved soil coverings are still in place.
- **Full Lead Safe Certificate:** No lead-based paint and no lead-contaminated soil, dust, or water were found. This certificate does not expire. Re-inspection is not required.

## Reducing lead hazards

### Lead-hazard reduction

Lead-hazard reduction (LHR) is lead abatement (removal), interim controls, or both. Lead abatement is permanent. Interim controls require ongoing maintenance. Only a licensed Lead Contractor can do LHR work. LHR is required at properties that got a RIDOH Notice of Violation. These are usually homes where children who tested positive for lead poisoning live or have lived.

Cited properties do not qualify for *Certificates of Conformance*. For a list of these properties, go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/find/environmentallead/propertystatus/>.

The LHR contractor must send a *Start Work Notification* to RIDOH before work starts. Download or submit the form at <http://www.health.ri.gov/forms/notification/LeadStartWork.pdf>.

LHR may also be required by a funding agency such as Rhode Island Housing's Lead Safe Homes Program or the Lead Safe Providence Program. At the end of the LHR project, a licensed Lead Inspector must do a clearance inspection. A *Full Lead Safe Certificate* or a *Conditional Lead Safe Certificate* is required.

### Lead hazard control

Lead hazard control (LHC) is window replacement and/or interim controls to fix lead hazards. Interim controls may include paint stabilizing and special cleaning. Only a licensed Lead Renovation Firm (LRF) can do LHC work.

LHC is required, as a minimum, at properties that got a RIDOH *Order to Correct Lead Hazards*. Before starting LHC work, the firm must give the owner and tenants the Renovate Right EPA pamphlet and the Rhode Island insert. For both, go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/brochures/RenovateRight.pdf>.

The LHC firm must also send a *Start Work Notification* to RIDOH. Download or submit the form at <http://www.health.ri.gov/forms/notification/LeadStartWork.pdf>.

At the end of an LHC project, a licensed Lead Inspector must do a clearance inspection. A *Full Lead Safe Certificate*, *Conditional Lead Safe Certificate*, *Partial Lead Safe Certificate*, or *Certificate of Conformance* is required.

### Lead hazard mitigation

Lead hazard mitigation (LHM) is minor repair and maintenance work done by a landlord or designated person. The person doing the work must first complete a lead-hazard awareness seminar and may not use prohibited work practices. For a list of HRC-approved seminars, go to <http://ohcd.ri.gov/lead-healthy-housing/lead-classes.php>.



A licensed Lead Renovation Firm is required for window replacement, demolition, or work that is more than spot removal. At the end of an LHM project, or every two years, a licensed Lead Inspector must do a clearance inspection. A *Certificate of Conformance* is required.

## **Renovating, remodeling, or repairing a home with lead-based paint**

### **Renovation, repair, and painting**

RIDOH has authority from EPA to administer the federal *Renovation, Repair, and Painting* (RRP) Rule. RIDOH licenses Lead Renovation Firms and certifies Lead Renovators. The RRP Rule applies to painting, construction, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work that is done on homes and buildings built before 1978. These buildings are assumed to contain lead-based paint unless a licensed Lead Inspector or certified Lead Renovator tests the paint to make sure that it is not lead based.

A licensed Lead Renovation Firm is required for any window replacement and for any demolition. For most pre-1978 housing and child care facilities, work that will disturb six square feet of lead-based paint on an interior (inside) room or 20 square feet of exterior (outside) lead-based paint also requires a licensed Lead Renovation Firm. This includes homes where children under six years of age live. A certified Lead Renovator must be on site to supervise all RRP activities.

### **Minor repair and maintenance or spot removal**

Both RIDOH and HRC spot-removal limits are the same as the EPA maximum of six square feet of lead-based paint on each interior room or 20 square feet of exterior lead-based paint. This is if the work does not include window replacement or demolition activities, and no prohibited work methods are used. DEM Regulation Number 24: *Removal of Lead-Based Paint from Exterior Surfaces* also applies to any exterior paint removal.

## Prohibited work methods

Along with EPA rules, Rhode Island has rules against disturbing lead paint.

For **interior** work, RIDOH does **not** allow:

- Dry sweeping
- Dry scraping or sanding
- Use of chemical strippers that are flammable or contain methylene chloride
- Dry or wet abrasive blasting

For **exterior** work, DEM does **not** allow:

- Dry scraping or sanding
- Use of chemical strippers that are flammable or contain methylene chloride
- Uncontained power washing

## Lead professionals

To find lists of RIDOH-licensed lead professionals, go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/find/environmentallead/professionals/>.

## Financial assistance

There is a Rhode Island personal income tax credit of up to \$5,000 per dwelling unit for money spent to correct lead hazards.

For the *Residential Lead Abatement Income Tax Credit Form RI-6238*, go to <http://www.tax.ri.gov/taxforms/misc.php>.

For questions about the tax credit, call **401-222-6262**.

These grant and loan programs are available to help property owners pay for and fix lead hazards:

- Rhode Island Housing Lead Safe Homes Program  
**401-450-1350**  
[http://loans.rhodeislandhousing.org/LeadSafe\\_Homes/](http://loans.rhodeislandhousing.org/LeadSafe_Homes/)
- Lead Safe Providence Program  
**401-680-8400**  
<https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/community-development/>

Other cities and towns may have financial assistance for lead-related home repairs.

### Lead certificates

Landlords of most pre-1978 rental properties must have either a *Certificate of Conformance*, a *Conditional Lead Safe Certificate*, or a *Full Lead Safe Certificate*. Your insurance company is required to provide you with lead liability coverage if you have a valid lead certificate. Check with your insurance company to see what type of certificate they will accept.

You will also need one of the above lead certificates to apply for the Rhode Island Residential Lead Abatement Tax Credit (Form RI-6238). To find out if a certificate was issued, go to <http://dualsearch.datasparkri.org/>.

### Education, advocacy, and parent support

Call the Childhood Lead Action Project at **401-785-1310**. Or go to [www.lead safekids.org](http://www.lead safekids.org).

# IMPORTANT!

## **Lead From Paint, Dust, and Soil in and Around Your Home Can Be Dangerous if Not Managed Properly**

- Children under 6 years old are most at risk for lead poisoning in your home.
- Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.
- Homes, schools, and child care facilities built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Even children who seem healthy may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.
- Disturbing surfaces with lead-based paint or removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.
- People can get lead into their bodies by breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.
- People have many options for reducing lead hazards. Generally, lead-based paint that is in good condition is not a hazard (see page 10).