

# Lead-Safe Work Practices

## Three Steps to Lead-Safe Renovation

**Step 1:** Seal off the work area so dust will not escape

**Step 2:** Minimize dust creation

**Step 3:** Clean up ALL dust and paint chips

**LEAD-SAFE PRACTICES:** These practices will minimize lead dust during repair and renovation projects and prevent it from spreading beyond the work area:

- Mist surfaces with water before and during scraping and sanding.
- Mist before drilling and cutting, or use foam, such as shaving cream, to keep dust down.
- Score paint before separating components to prevent paint from chipping when a paint seal is broken.
- Use a heat gun set below 1100°.
- Pry and pull apart components and pull nails instead of pounding out components or nails.
- If you must use power sanding or grinding tools, attach them to a HEPA-filtered vacuum attachment.

**DO**

**UNSAFE PRACTICES:** These practices are very dangerous around lead paint and are forbidden under Indiana law:

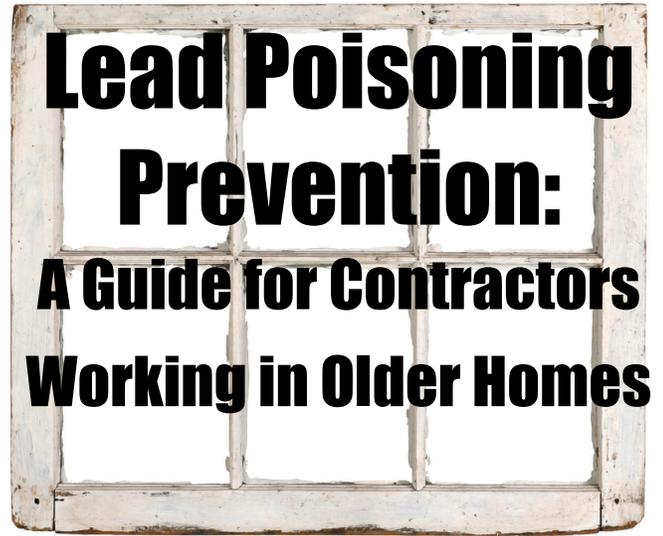
- Don't use open-flame burning or torching.
- Don't use machine sanding, grinding, abrasive blasting or sandblasting without a HEPA vacuum attachment.
- Don't use a heat gun that operates above 1100° F or chars the paint.
- Don't conduct dry scraping, except with a heat gun or within one foot of an electrical outlet.
- Don't conduct dry sanding, except within one foot of an electrical outlet.
- Don't strip paint with a volatile stripper unless the space is ventilated by outside air. Methylene chloride paint strippers are not recommended.
- Don't leave visible paint chips or debris on the soil, pavement or ground outside a building for more than 48 hours after the work is complete.

**DON'T**

For more information about lead-safe work practices, visit [www.ikecoalition.org](http://www.ikecoalition.org) or [www.in.gov/isdh/19155.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/19155.htm)



Improving  
Kids'   
Environment



If your company does renovation, painting, or maintenance in residential properties, schools or child-care facilities built before 1978, you may be working with lead-based paint.

Here's what you need to know to protect yourself and your clients:

- Lead poisoning can permanently affect a child's learning ability and behavior. You could face fines or lawsuits if you don't know and follow the law.
- Before starting a project in a home built before 1978, you must provide the owner and occupant with EPA's [Renovate Right](#) brochure.
- Under federal law, all renovation and repair contractors who disrupt more than six square feet of lead paint, replace windows or do any demolition, must become Lead-Safe Certified.



For homes and child-occupied facilities built before 1960, Indiana law resumes that paint is lead-based and:

- Prohibits the use of dangerous work practices that generate dust
- Requires exterior cleanup of visible paint chips or painted debris within 48 hours after work is complete.
- Only a licensed lead paint inspector or assessor can determine whether lead-based paint is present and only a licensed abatement contractor can remove lead-based paint.

You have responsibilities to your employees under OSHA if they will be exposed to lead dust.

# Facts About Lead

**What causes lead poisoning?** Lead paint could cause lead poisoning if it is peeling, chipping or creating lead dust. Children exposed to lead can have problems learning, paying attention, and controlling violent behavior. Lead can even lower a child's IQ score.

**How can I tell if a person is lead poisoned?** Only a blood test will tell you. Since lead leaves the blood over time, you cannot easily tell whether a person was lead poisoned in the past.

**Why focus on children six or younger?** Children under seven are the most at risk because lead in blood can enter their brain and permanently damage it. A pregnant woman also can pass lead to her unborn child.



**How many children are lead poisoned in Indiana?** State officials estimate 13,000 Indiana children are lead poisoned or at risk of lead poisoning. Nationally, 1 in 100 children is lead poisoned. Lead poisoning can affect any child who spends time in a home or childcare built before 1978.

**Who should be tested?** All children living or playing in property built before 1978 should be tested. All children eligible for Medicaid must be tested at 12 months and 24 months.

**What causes lead poisoning?** The most common causes are lead paint dust, lead paint chips, and lead in soil. Children can take in lead dust or contaminated soil found on their toys, blankets, clothes or hands. The dust may be invisible, but only a tiny amount can be enough to poison a child.

**Where do you find lead-based paint and dust?** Lead paint was prohibited in residential property after 1978, but it remains in many older homes. Lead paint on the outside of a home may contaminate the soil below. Inside a home, windows and doors are the most likely places to find dust from lead-based paint.



**How can I know if my home has lead paint?** The only way to know for sure is to have it checked by a risk assessor or inspector licensed by the Indiana State Department of Health.

## When is lead-based paint a hazard?

If intact, lead-based paint may not be a hazard. When paint chips, peels or creates dust, it becomes dangerous. It is often better to keep the paint in place and maintain it until you do a major renovation, and then use lead-safe work practices.

# Your Responsibilities

Your clients are hiring you to do the work safely. It is your obligation to warn the occupants of the potential for lead hazards before you start the job:

- You must provide the owner and occupant a copy of EPA's pamphlet *Renovate Right*, available at [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf)
- EPA requires that firms performing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in pre-1978 homes, child care facilities and schools be certified by EPA and that they use certified renovators who are trained by EPA-approved training providers to follow lead-safe work practices
- Learn more about the EPA repair, renovation and painting rule at [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm)
- If you are working in common areas of multi-family housing, you must either distribute renovation notices to occupants or post visible signs describing the nature and dates of the work.



## Working in Pre-1960 Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities

Indiana has special requirements for any person doing remodeling, renovation, and maintenance work at target housing and child occupied facilities built before 1960 (IC 13-17-14-12).

These requirements apply if the work will disturb at least 20 square feet of exterior painted surfaces, two square feet of interior painted surfaces in any one room or space, or 10 percent of the painted surface area of components of the building. The law prohibits the unsafe work practices described on the next page.

OSHA also requires that employers conduct — and document — an exposure assessment to determine if any employee may be exposed to significant levels of lead in the air. For more information about OSHA requirements, visit [www.osha.gov/SLTC/lead/](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/lead/)

## For More Information:

- Indiana State Department of Health: [www.in.gov/isdh/19124.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/19124.htm) or 800-433-0746.
- Improving Kids' Environment: [www.ikeycoalition.org](http://www.ikeycoalition.org) or 317-253-1312
- [www.leadfreekids.org](http://www.leadfreekids.org)