

# 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 sand-blasting 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 practices, visit [www.ikecoalition.org](http://www.ikecoalition.org) or [www.in.gov/isdh/19155.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/19155.htm)



**If you rent a home or apartment built before 1978, it could have lead-based paint.**

**Know your rights as a renter in Indiana:**

- If you rent pre-1978 housing and children might live or visit, your landlord must inform you about any known lead-based paint and warn you about potential lead hazards.
- Landlords who don't follow this law may face fines up to \$11,000 per violation.
- Your local or state health department can test your children for lead in their blood — at no cost to you.
- If lead hazards are found on the property, your landlord must correct them.
- Your landlord must provide you with reports about any lead testing or risk assessments.
- Work that disturbs paint must be done by a renovator trained in lead-safe work practices.



**Have your children tested!** A simple blood test will show if your child has high levels of lead.

# 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.

# Tenant Rights



State or local health agencies can check your child's blood for lead at no charge to you. If a child has lead poisoning:

- The health department must provide you services to reduce your child's lead level.
- The health department must investigate your home to find the source of the lead. A licensed lead risk assessor must do the investigation.
- If lead hazards are found on the property, the landlord must correct them.
- If the property receives HUD funds, a risk assessment must be completed in 15 days and hazards addressed within 30 days of a completed report.
- The lead hazards may also be a violation of the local housing code and the terms of your lease. State law requires that a landlord provide a tenant with a safe, clean, and habitable conditions that meet applicable health and housing codes.
- If a state or local agency orders the permanent elimination of lead hazards, the work must be done by licensed lead abatement contractors.

**How do I know if someone is qualified to work on my home?** Renovation firms must be certified by U.S. EPA and must use trained, certified renovators.

If the goal is to permanently remove lead hazards, work must be done by a licensed lead abatement contractor. Licenses are issued by the State Department of Health and the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency.

## 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.ikecoalition.org](http://www.ikecoalition.org) or 317-253-1312
- [www.leadfreekids.org](http://www.leadfreekids.org)