



Check For Lead

When Remodeling or Renovating

Why is lead dangerous?

Lead is poisonous when swallowed or inhaled. Small lead dust particles that cannot be seen can get into the body. Although lead is a hazard to adults, children are at most risk for serious health problems. While adults may experience high blood pressure, headaches, memory and concentration problems, lead in children can cause reduced IQ's and learning disabilities that last a lifetime.

How can remodeling be dangerous?

Any house or apartment built before 1978 may have surfaces painted with lead-based paint. This paint can be found on a home's exterior surfaces or interior walls, ceilings, woodwork and windows. Any remodeling project that disturbs these surfaces should be considered a potential danger.

How do I begin?

Before disturbing a painted surface, you should:

1) Call your local health department or the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to find out how your home can be tested for lead-based paint.

If lead-based paint is found:

2) Have your remodeling done by a licensed lead worker. For a list, call your local health department or the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Lead Licensing Program (888) 837-0927 or (573) 526-5873 or check out our website www.dhss.mo.gov/Lead for additional information.

If you cannot hire a licensed lead abatement contractor, when participating in any remodeling job that disturbs painted surfaces, please use the checklist on the reverse side of this page to ensure the safety of your family.



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BEFORE

- Cover interior and exterior exposed areas with plastic.
- Turn off forced air heating and cooling systems

DURING

- Keep non-workers (especially children and pregnant women) out of the area.
- Wear protective clothing while in the area. Change clothes when leaving.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke in the area.
- When sanding, use a wet sanding sponge. **DO NOT** dry-sand, use heat guns, open flames or sand-blast on lead-based paint.

For maximum protection,

- Use a sander with a vacuum attachment connected to a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.
- Use a fitted respirator with HEPA filters. (These can be rented)

AFTER

- Remove plastic carefully so debris is not disturbed.
- Wrap all construction debris with plastic.
- Wash exposed areas with detergent. Work from top to bottom of room.
- Machine wash protective clothing separately.
- Shower and wash hair when finishing work.
- Have areas tested for dust contamination.
- Dispose of debris as advised by EPA.
- Have children under 6 years old tested for lead. Your local health department or physician can arrange for testing.

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