

Lead-Safe Renovation Guide (Pre-1978 Homes)

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1. Why Lead Safety Matters

Homes built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Renovation work can create dust that is harmful, especially to children and pregnant women.

- Lead dust is often invisible and can spread through normal renovation activities.
- Young children can be exposed by touching dusty surfaces and then putting hands in their mouth.
- EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule sets requirements for safe work practices.

2. Before Work Begins

- Confirm that your contractor is an EPA Lead-Safe Certified Firm for RRP work.
- Identify which areas may have original paint or surfaces that could contain lead.
- Discuss containment: plastic sheeting, door and vent sealing, and controlled entry/exit.
- Plan for children and pregnant women to be out of work areas.

3. During the Work

- Work areas should be sealed off to limit dust spreading to clean areas.
- Workers should avoid open-flame burning and high-heat methods on painted surfaces.
- Surfaces should be kept damp when scraping or sanding to minimize dust.
- Debris should be contained and disposed of properly, not tracked through the home.

4. Cleaning & Clearance

- HEPA vacuuming and wet wiping are standard methods for post-work cleaning.
- Work areas should be visibly free of dust and debris before being reopened.
- In some situations, clearance testing may be recommended or required.

This guide summarizes general concepts from EPA lead-safe renovation practices but is not a substitute for official regulations or professional training.

For detailed requirements, refer to official EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule resources and your local regulations.