

Why are Dust and Debris a Problem?

- **Renovation activities that disturb lead-based paint create dust and debris. Debris becomes dust.**
- **Lead-contaminated dust is poisonous.**
- **Very small amounts of lead-contaminated dust can poison children and adults.**
 - Children swallow dust during ordinary play activities.
 - Adults swallow or breathe dust during work activities.
- **Workers can bring lead-contaminated dust home and poison their families.**

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Dust and debris from renovation, repair, and painting jobs in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities may contain lead.

- Pre-1978 paint may contain lead.
- Renovation, repair and painting jobs disturb paint that may contain lead. Any activity involving surface preparation, such as hand-scraping, power sanding, the use of heat guns above 1100° Fahrenheit, and open flame burning, can generate lead dust. More complicated tasks such as removing building components and demolishing walls also can create a lot of dust.

Small amounts of lead-contaminated dust can poison children and adults.

- A tiny amount of lead can be extremely harmful.
- Leaded-dust particles are often so small that you cannot see them, yet you can breathe or swallow them. These smaller, inhaled or swallowed dust particles are more easily absorbed by the body than larger particles, and can therefore more easily cause poisoning.
- Leaded dust may be breathed or swallowed by children, residents and workers.
- Through normal hand-to-mouth activities, children may swallow or inhale dust on their hands, toys, food, or other objects. Children may also ingest paint chips.
- Adults can swallow or breathe dust during work activities.
 - When workers perform activities such as scraping and sanding by hand, or use a power sander or grinding tool, dust is created. The dust goes into the air that they breathe.
 - If workers eat, drink, smoke or put anything into their mouths without washing up first, they may swallow the leaded dust present.