

# PAINING OR REMODELING?

Watch out for lead in homes built before 1978. Lead poisoning is especially dangerous to children and pregnant people.



## BEFORE REMODELING

### Find out if your home has lead

- Assume there is lead if your home was built pre-1978.
- Unsure? Get tested or hire a lead investigator.
  - Our laboratory tests paint and varnish chips. Call (608) 266-4821.
  - [Hire a lead investigator.](#)

### Find out if lead certification is needed

- **If you own and live in your home**, you can do lead work without being certified by the State.
- **If you work on a home that you don't own**, you must be certified by the State.
- **If you're doing exterior work**, Madison Ordinance requires lead-safe methods during exterior painting and remodeling of pre-1978 buildings.
- Everyone must be informed. Anyone doing work on surfaces that might have lead must tell occupants and property owners of the potential lead hazards.
- [Find a certified Lead Company.](#)

## DURING REMODELING

Painting and remodeling can create lead dust, chips, or fumes which can cause lead poisoning.

### Get materials

You will need:

- Plastic drop cloths, duct tape, all-purpose cleaner, spray bottles, disposable rags or paper towels, heavy duty trash bags, and a HEPA-filter vacuum.

### Cover furniture

- Remove as much furniture as you can from the room. Cover the rest with plastic.
- Tape 6 mil plastic over all doors, windows, exposed surfaces and the work area.

### Block sources of air flow

- Turn off heating and air conditioning systems and seal vents with 6 mil plastic.
- For outdoor work, close windows and doors, remove screens, seal air intakes and cover the ground.

### Protect yourself from dust

- Wear a NIOSH mask made for lead dust.
- Wear a hat, shoe covers, and coveralls.
- Don't eat, drink, or smoke in the work area.

### Remove paint safely

- Gently mist with a spray bottle.
- Scrape off loose paint, making sure all paint chips land on the plastic drop cloths so they can be cleaned up easily.
- For exterior work, do not use sand blasting, power washing, or open flame burning.

### Clean up after working

- Be careful to not track dust out of the area.
- Change and wash clothes and shower as soon as you're done working.

## AFTER REMODELING

### Clean with the wet washing method

- Lightly wet lead dust, paint chips, and drop cloths. Carefully roll or fold inward and discard in trash.
- Wash all surfaces (floors, walls, windows), then dispose of the towels you used for washing.

### Use a special HEPA vacuum

Use a HEPA-filter vacuum (never a regular vacuum).

### Dispose of waste

Double bag and tie shut, and discard in regular trash.