



Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology & Surveillance
Texas Department of State Health Services

LEAD SAFETY DURING HOME RENOVATION



In 1978, the U.S. banned lead-based paint for use in houses, but many houses built before then contain lead-based paint. Some renovations and repairs can create lead dust in houses that have lead in their paint. If not done properly, this can cause people and pets to be lead poisoned. Lead dust also can contaminate your house and yard. Lead dust can remain long after the work is done.

IF YOU HAVE A PRE-1978 HOUSE TO RENOVATE:

If you live in the house to be renovated but do not **OWN** it....

OR

You own the house but do not **LIVE** in it...

You must use an **EPA-Certified Lead Renovator**. To locate an EPA-Certified Lead Renovator in your area, please visit

http://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/searchrrp_firm.htm

If you own **AND** live in the house to be renovated...

It is important to know for sure if you will be working with lead paint. Have a certified Lead Inspector or Risk Assessor test for lead-based paint. You can call the Texas Department of State Health Services Environmental Lead Program at (888) 778 – 9440 or visit www.dshs.state.tx.us/elp for more information.



IF YOU ARE HIRING A RENOVATOR:

1. If the renovators disturb more than 6 square feet of interior paint or 20 square feet of exterior paint, they must be a certified renovator and use certain lead-safety methods.
 - a. Ask the renovator what lead-safe methods they will use to set up and perform the job in your home.
 - b. Ask for references from recent jobs involving homes built before 1978, and speak to each personally.
2. The certified renovators performing these methods must be EPA-certified and work for a certified renovation firm. To find an EPA-certified renovator, please visit http://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/searchrrp_firm.htm
3. Federal law requires that certified renovators provide lead information to residents before renovating pre-1978 housing. The certified renovator must give you a pamphlet titled "The Lead Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right" before starting any work. This pamphlet is located at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf>.

IF YOU ARE DOING THE WORK YOURSELF:

Assume lead is present if your house was built before 1978 and you are not testing for lead. Follow the lead-safe work practices below to reduce the danger to your family and property:



1. Move your family (especially children and pregnant women) out of the house or apartment until the work is done and the area has been properly cleaned
2. Isolate the work area
 - Use heavy-duty plastic sheeting and tape to cover floors and furniture
 - Seal off doors and vents
 - Turn off forced-air heating and air conditioning
 - Make the work area off-limits to anyone not directly involved with the work
3. Protect yourself
 - Wear safety goggles, disposable coveralls and shoe covers
 - Always wear a respirator equipped with a HEPA filter (ordinary dust masks will not keep lead particles out of the lungs)
 - Do not eat, drink or smoke in the work area and wash your hands and face before doing so
4. Minimize the spread of dust
 - Use a spray bottle to mist paint before sanding or scraping
 - Use minimal force when separating components such as window frames
 - Score paint when separating components
 - Create a separate pathway for workers so debris isn't tracked through the living area
 - Change out of work clothes when leaving the area
 - Wash these clothes separately from other clothing
 - Shower after performing work activities
5. Clean up
 - Clean daily using a HEPA filter vacuum
 - When the job is done, mist debris with a spray bottle, fold the plastic sheeting inward to trap dust and paint chips, and throw away in tightly sealed bags
 - Wash all surfaces with soap and water
6. Never use the following methods:
 - Open-flame burning or torching
 - Machine sanding/grinding without HEPA local exhaust control
 - Abrasive sanding/sandblasting without HEPA local exhaust control
 - Heat guns hot enough to char paint or over 1,100°F
 - Dry sanding/scraping
 - Paint stripping in poorly ventilated areas
 - Paint strippers that contain methylene chloride
 - Pressure washing

