

HEALTHY HOMES



Lead-Based Paint

Lead-based paint is commonly found in NYC housing built before 1960. Lead is a poison and may cause learning and behavior problems in children.

Lead paint dust and debris can be created when:

- Paint is peeling or damaged
- Home repairs disturb painted surfaces

**NEVER DRY SCRAPE OR DRY SAND
ALWAYS USE WET METHODS**

Things You Can Do

Safe work practices can help reduce the risk of lead poisoning. Plan your job and get trained in lead-safe work practices.

For work in buildings where young children live or on turnover, certain legal requirements may apply, such as appropriately trained workers and dust clearance testing when the work is completed.

Before You Begin

- Keep children and pregnant women away from work area.
- Seal off work area by covering floors, vents, doors, windows and furniture with heavy plastic.

While You Work

- Use wet methods. Frequent wetting and misting with water helps keep dust and paint chips from spreading.
- Always mist before sanding, scraping, or other activities that disturb paint.
- Protect yourself: Use safety goggles, gloves and a respirator.

After You're Done

- Mist all paint dust and debris and place in double plastic garbage bags.
- Use a HEPA vacuum. Regular vacuums may spread dust.
- If a HEPA vacuum is not available, wet mop using separate wash and rinse water.
- Dust clearance tests may be required. Call 311 for information.

Suggested Products

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| • Spray bottle | • Wet sanding block |
| • 6 mil plastic sheeting | • Duct tape |
| • HEPA vacuum | • All purpose cleaner |
| • Mops and buckets | • Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags |
| • Protective gear (disposable gloves, N100 respirator, goggles) | |

For More Information

Call 311 for information on legal requirements, preventing lead hazards and lead awareness training. Information can also be obtained through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at nyc.gov/health

For information on lead-certification and training by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), go to epa.gov/lead or call 1-800-424-LEAD.



nyc.gov/health



Healthy Homes:
A Key Step to a
Healthier New York



nyc.gov/hpd