



# Lead Paint



## What is Lead Paint?

---

Homes built before 1978 are more likely to have lead paint in them. Lead hazards arise when lead-based paint is deteriorated - peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, or damaged. They can also arise when lead-based paint is found on surfaces that children can chew on or get a lot of wear and tear. This includes:

- Windows and windowsills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters, and porches

Lead-based paint is usually not a hazard if it is in good condition and not on a friction or impact surface.

Lead dust can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. It also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together and can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Lead dust that has previously settled can reenter the air when a home is vacuumed or swept or when people walk through it.

## Tenant Rights

---

Tenant Lead Law Notification and Disclosure

The owner or managing agent for a dwelling unit built prior to 1978 is required to disclose to the prospective tenant any information and documentation about known lead hazards. This includes the location of paint, plaster, or other accessible structural materials containing dangerous levels of lead as well as locations that have been covered or encapsulated. The required documents are:

- 2 copies of the Tenant Lead Law Notification/Tenant Certification form, one for the tenant and one for the owner
- A copy of the Letter of Full Compliance or Letter of Interim Control
- A copy of the most recent lead inspection report or risk assessment report

Owners failing to comply with Tenant Lead Paint Notification could result in civil and/or criminal penalties.

If a tenant believes that the premises fail to meet the standards of the Letter of Compliance, or a licensed lead inspector finds they do not, a tenant may contact the Board of Health for assistance. The owner must then ensure that the premises meet the standard of the letter of full compliance within 14 days of being notified.

## What To Do If You Think Lead Paint is in Your Unit

---

### Protecting Your Family from Lead Hazards

- Do not try to remove lead-based paint yourself.
- Always keep painted surfaces in good condition to minimize deterioration.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards by a licensed lead inspector.
- Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Regularly clean floors, windowsills, and other surfaces.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe certified renovation firms.
- Before buying, renting, or renovating your home, have it checked for lead-based paint.
- Consult your healthcare provider about testing your children for lead.
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.

- Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.
- Remove shoes or wipe soil off shoes before entering your house.

### Checking Your Home for Lead

You can get your home tested for lead in several different ways. A lead-based paint inspection will tell you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. A trained and certified lead-based paint inspector will conduct a paint inspection. This will not tell you if your home currently has lead hazards. A risk assessment tells you if your home currently has lead hazards from lead paint, dust, or soil. It will also tell you the actions you should take to address any hazards. A combination of an inspection and a risk assessment will tell you if your home has any lead-based paint, any lead-based paint hazards, and where both are located.

Quick tests are sold at many hardware stores and can be used to help determine if you need a lead inspection.

### Reducing Lead Hazards

Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to you and your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house. Hiring an EPA- or state-certified renovator who is trained in

the use of lead-safe work practices will minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing, or painting. Actions like repairing damaged painting surfaces and planting grass cover lead-contaminated soil can temporarily reduce lead-based paint hazards, but these are not permanent solutions and need ongoing attention.

You can delead yourself, but you must complete training from the state and can only perform low- and moderate-risk deleading activities. To remove lead hazards permanently, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement, or permanent hazard elimination, methods including removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials.

## Additional Resources

---

Scan the QR Code below for more resources or go to

<https://andoverma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9945/Lead-Resources-2021>

