

# Lead Poisoning Fact Sheet: Code Enforcement

## What is Lead Poisoning?



- Lead is a **toxic** metal used to make certain products and materials.
- Exposure to even a **small amount** of lead can be harmful to children.

You can help protect our children!



## What are Common Places that Can have Lead?



Old Paint



Lead Dust



Home Renovations



Drinking Water



Soil

## How you can make a Difference!

**NY State Property Maintenance Code** requires that peeling, flaking and chipped paint be eliminated and surfaces repainted. See the [2015 International Property Maintenance Code](#), sections 304.2 and 305.3 to review the regulation. The purpose of this is not just for aesthetic value but children's futures are at stake if lead paint is deteriorated.

## Considerations and Resources

Unfortunately, renovation, repairs, and painting in pre-1978 homes can also result in lead poisoning of children, families, and pets. When you meet with contractors or property owners seeking permits, it is a perfect opportunity to explain current State and Federal laws to ensure lead-safe work practices to protect the workers, occupants and the environment.

Federal law also requires that individuals receive certain information before renovating more than six square feet (2' by 3') of painted surfaces in a room for interior projects or more than twenty square feet (4' by 5') of painted surfaces for exterior projects, window replacements, or demolition in housing, child care facilities and schools built before 1978.

Renovators must give homeowners and tenants "[THE LEAD-SAFE CERTIFIED GUIDE TO RENOVATE RIGHT](#)" booklet before starting work.





# Lead Safe Work Practice



## Preparing for a Renovation?

- The work areas should not be accessible to occupants while the work occurs.
- You may need :
  - A separate pathway for the contractor from the work area
  - Alternative bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen arrangements if work is being done in those areas
  - A safe place for pets; they can be poisoned by lead and can track lead dust into other areas of the home
  - All furniture and belongings may have to be moved from the work area while the work is being done. Furniture may need to be wrapped in plastic

## During the Work

- No eating, drinking, or smoking in the work area
- Contain the work area
  - Use protective plastic sheeting on the floor extending 5 foot from the work area. Tape plastic sheeting to the floor. Reinforce corners with duct tape and a staple.
  - Cover furniture with protective plastic sheeting.
  - Remove drapes and curtains.

## Reduce Tracking Dust

- Gather all supplies necessary for the job
- Wear shoe covers or clean off shoes with thick pieces of tape
- Remove shoes every time you step off the protective sheeting



## Worker Protection from Lead

- Always wear safety glasses.
- At the end of the work period remove dusty clothes. Wash clothes separately or wear disposable protective clothing covers.
- Wash hands each time you stop working.
- **Do not use compressed air to blow dust off clothing.**
- Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.
- Clean up thoroughly:
  - Use a HEPA vacuum to clean up dust and debris on all surfaces, followed by
  - Wet wiping and wet mopping with plenty of clean water to rinse.



Finger Lakes Coalition to  Lead Poisoning 

### Resources:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/>  
[https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IPMC2015NY?site\\_type=public](https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IPMC2015NY?site_type=public)  
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renovaterightbrochure.pdf> <https://nchh.org/resources/policy/addressing-specific-health-hazards-through-code-enforcement/>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/prevention/>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/communication-resources/all-children-can-be-exposed-to-lead.html>

For more information about Lead Poisoning Prevention contact:  
Schuyler County Public Health

[www.schuylercounty.us/publichealth](http://www.schuylercounty.us/publichealth)

Email: [scph@schuylercountyny.gov](mailto:scph@schuylercountyny.gov)  
Call us at 607-535-8140



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Schuyler County, NY

