

DISY DO IT SAFELY YOURSELF

WHAT EVERY DIYER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT LEAD

Where there's a home project, there's dust. And in older homes, where there's dust, there's a possibility for lead in that dust. Lead, which is found commonly in paint, dust, soil and water, is a neurotoxin that can affect almost every organ and system in your body. It's especially harmful in children under the age of six, as their bodies are still developing, and can lead to permanent debilitating effects, from lower IQ to behavioral problems.



START SMART. By setting up work spaces safely, you'll better be able to control the dust. Remove all furniture, rugs, curtains, food, clothing and other household items. Wrap and seal unmovable

items in plastic, cover floors and vents in plastic, close all windows, and turn off all heat and air conditioning.

of lead-safe renovation, heavy-duty plastic sheeting and heavy-duty plastic bags.



WORK WETLY. Water is the best solution to minimize dust. Mist surfaces before sanding, scraping, drilling and cutting (except within a foot of live electrical outlets). Keep surfaces moist as you work.



EQUIP YOURSELF. Choose your tools wisely: NIOSH-certified disposable respirator with a HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filter (N-100, R-100, or P-100), HEPA filter-equipped vacuum

cleaner, wet-sanding equipment (e.g., spray mister), wet/dry abrasive paper, wet sanding sponges and, based on all the 'wetness'



WRAP IT UP. During demo, pry apart components, rather than hammering, to minimize dust. Keep components that are being disposed of in the work area until you can securely wrap them in plastic sheeting or bagged and safely removed.



CONSIDER A PRO. There's a reason firms are certified in "Renovation, Repair and Painting" and that contractors and inspectors are certified in "Lead Abatement." If your home was built before 1978 (when lead in paint was banned), it is recommended to hire a certified contractor to do the work safely.

[Locate contractors who perform lead abatement and inspection activities in your area.](#)

[Locate contractors who are lead-safe certified in your area.](#)

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/renovation-repair-and-painting-program-do-it-yourselfers>

Get the Lead Out, Pittsburgh