

**Before you  
start the  
job!**

## **Why you should care about lead**

Most homes and apartments built before 1978 have lead-based paint or varnish. Lead can harm children. **Children can easily be poisoned during home renovations.**

Children under six years old can be poisoned by dust or chips from lead paint. When they swallow lead dust it can cause illness. It can also cause problems with learning, growth and behavior that can affect them their entire life. Even small amounts of lead can be harmful.

When you tear out old walls and remove or refinish old paint or varnish, lead dust and paint chips spread through the air. If you do not use the proper tools or do not clean up well, lead can remain on the surfaces inside and outside the home. That causes short- and long-term danger. Even your own children can be poisoned if you carry lead dust and chips home on your work clothes.



Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services,  
Division of Public Health,  
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health,  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
PPH4529 (05/07)

## **Clean up the lead** (continued)

- ☒ **Do not dry scrape, power sand, power wash or burn old paint.** These methods can cause greater problems than you had before.



- ☒ **Keep dust lead levels down.**  
Use a wet mop on the floor. Wash other lead-paint surfaces with warm water and soap. Spray the surface first. Wipe it off with a paper towel. Rinse the surface with clean water after washing. When mops and rags are dirty, throw them away in plastic bags.
- ☒ **Before you leave work, change into clean clothes** to avoid carrying lead dust to your car or your own home. Keep your work clothes separate from your street clothes and wash them separately.
- ☒ **Whatever you do, clean up at the end of each work day.** Cleaning up is the most important job you can do to prevent lead poisoning during renovation.

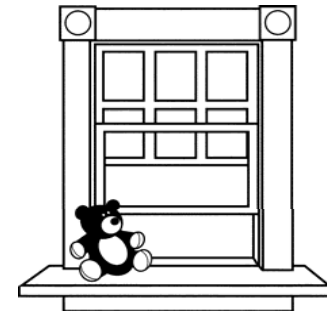
### **For more information**

Call your health department or the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (608) 266-5817. Or visit our website: [dhfs.wi.gov/lead](http://dhfs.wi.gov/lead).

**CONTRACTORS, PAINTERS,  
HOME REMODELERS**

# LOOK OUT FOR LEAD

*Before you start a  
remodeling job*



**look out  
FOR LEAD**

***Find out:***

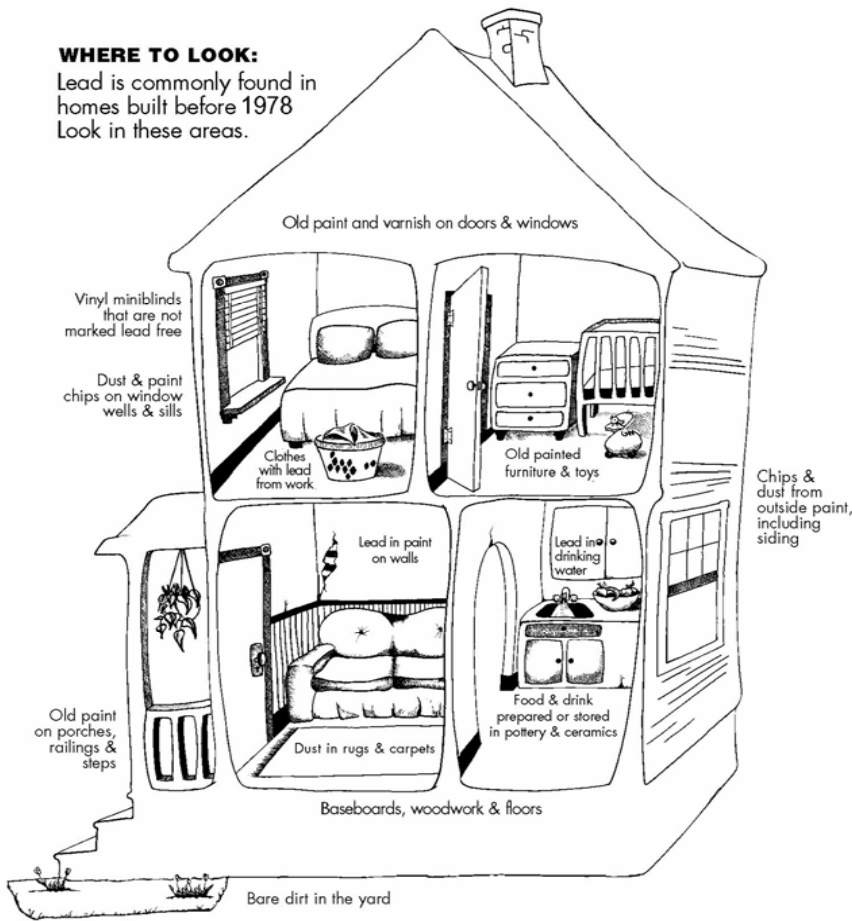
**Was the house or  
apartment built before  
1978?**

**Are children under  
the age of six  
living there?**

# HOW YOU CAN PREVENT LEAD PROBLEMS WHEN YOU REMODEL OR RENOVATE

## WHERE TO LOOK:

Lead is commonly found in homes built before 1978. Look in these areas.



## 1 Be prepared

Get a **free** copy of the U.S. government booklet, *Lead Paint Safety: A Field Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance and Renovation*. Call (608)266-5817 for a booklet, available in English and Spanish.

You can learn about lead-

safe work practices to protect yourself and your workers by attending a certified lead abatement training. To qualify for lead removal jobs, you must be a certified lead abatement contractor. Call (608)261-6876 to learn more about becoming certified.

## 2 Look out for lead!

Most homes built before 1978 have paint or varnish that contains lead. Before you begin the job, you are required by state and federal law to tell people about lead-based paint hazards if you will be disturbing painted surfaces in the home.

Contractors must give the occupants of the home a copy of the U.S. government booklet, *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home*. The booklet, *The Lead-Based Paint Pre-Renovation Education Rule: A Handbook for Contractors, Property Managers, and Maintenance Personnel*, explains the law and how it affects you. Call (608)261-6876 for the booklets or more information.

Lead dust is so fine that it is hard to see. To be sure where lead hazards are, take a wipe sample and send it to a certified lab. Call (608)266-5817 for information on testing and a list of certified labs.

On the job, use safe work practices to protect yourself, your customers and your workers. After the work is done, take a wipe sample to make sure you have cleaned up properly.

More information can be found on the internet at [dhfs.wi.gov/lead](http://dhfs.wi.gov/lead).

## 3 Clean up the lead

- ☒ **Keep children, pregnant women and adults with high blood pressure out of the work area** until the work is done and the area is clean. The safest time to remove lead is when no one is home.
- ☒ **Seal doors and vents to keep dust from spreading to other rooms** when you work inside the house. Inside or outside, use 4-millimeter plastic drop cloths and throw them away when you are done. To clean porches, siding, sidewalks, or driveways, wet the surface with a hose. Scrub with a stiff brush and soapy water, then rinse clean. Pick up and dispose of paint chips.
- ☒ **Do not use a broom or shop vacuum to clean up lead dust and chips.** They can spread the danger. Use a HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air filter) vacuum. Call your health department to find out where to borrow or buy a HEPA vacuum.
- ☒ **Do not eat, drink, smoke, chew tobacco or gum in the work area** when lead paint is disturbed.



*Continued on back...*