

RENOVATE LEAD-SAFE

Fact Sheet Protect yourself and your family from lead exposure by being aware of potential hazards during home renovation projects.

**~34.6
MILLION
HOMES**

in the U.S. have lead-based paint somewhere in the building*

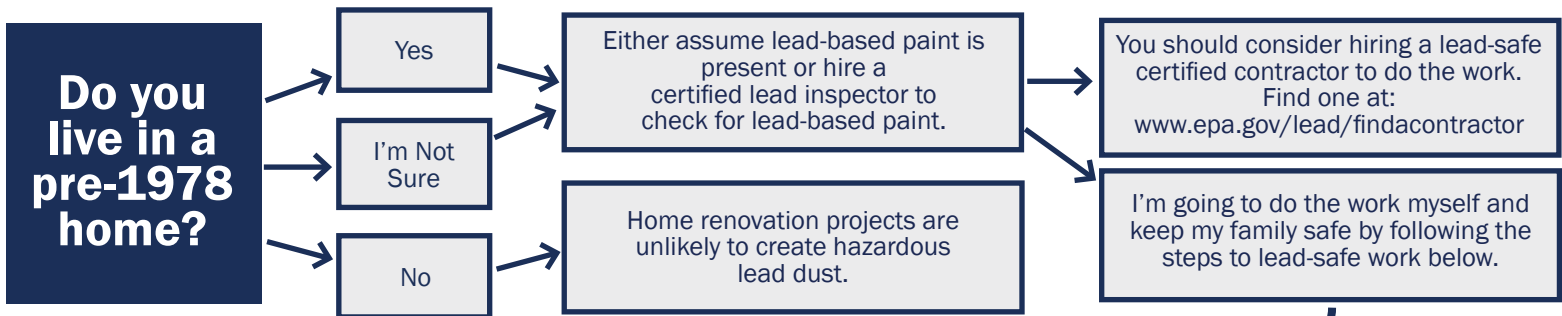
If your home was built before 1978, a home renovation project can easily create dangerous lead dust, one of the most common ways children are exposed to lead. Even low levels of lead in children's blood have been shown to affect a child's intellect, concentration, and academic achievement.

EPA encourages anyone pursuing renovations in a pre-1978 home to use a lead-safe certified contractor. However, if you plan to do-it-yourself (DIY), there are simple, important steps you should take to keep yourself and others safe during and after the renovation.

*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. (2021, October). American Healthy Homes Survey II Lead Findings.

Considering a home renovation project?

This chart can help you stay lead-safe while you renovate:



Steps to Lead-Safe Work

Set Up Safely

Keep dust in and family members and other nonworkers out.



Carefully tape off your work area and use plastic sheeting to cover objects you can't remove.

Protect Yourself

Avoid inhaling or ingesting lead dust, and wear protective clothing like disposable coveralls, shoe covers and an N-100 certified respirator mask to avoid carrying lead dust out of the work area.



Minimize Dust

Use the right equipment to minimize dust while you work. Plastic sheeting, masking tape, heavy-duty plastic bags, and a misting bottle will help you collect and dispose of all dust.

Leave the Work Area Clean

Clean up your work area as you go by vacuuming with a HEPA vacuum cleaner frequently and cleaning your tools daily.



Leave your work area clean at the end of each day.

Control Your Waste

Bag and seal waste from DIY renovation projects.

Most waste generated during these activities should be taken to a licensed solid waste landfill.



Clean One More Time

After completing your DIY project and before letting people back in the work area, clean all surfaces with damp disposable cloths.

Consider having the area tested for lead dust hazards by a certified firm.



This document presents an overview of lead-safe work practices. For detailed information about lead-safe work practices, please visit epa.gov/lead/rfp-diayers.