

# REDUCE LEAD POISONING RISKS

During Home Repairs and Renovations



Tips for Contractors and Do-It-Yourselfers

**It's easy for lead dust and fumes to get into your body when doing home repairs, maintenance, and painting. Young children are at highest risk of lead poisoning, although adults and pets can be poisoned too.**

If a home was built before 1978, it may contain lead paint. The older the home, the more likely that lead is present. Always use lead-safe work practices until the home is inspected for lead.

## **CONTRACTORS**

If you are doing repairs, maintenance, or painting in homes or other structures built before 1978, they may contain lead, and you must be trained in lead-safe work practices. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that you are certified to comply with the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule if you are working on more than 6 square feet of interior surface or 20 square feet of exterior surface. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or contact the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).





# WORK SMART, WORK WET, and WORK CLEAN without much cost or effort

## WORK SMART

1. Choose paint removal methods that minimize dust. Avoid sanding, burning, and grinding, and replace building components rather than removing paint when possible. Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while working including a painter's hat, coveralls, shoe covers, and an N-95 respirator.



## WORK WET

2. When paint removal is necessary, use water while working to reduce dust and fumes. For example, use a water spray bottle to wet any surface to be scraped or sanded.



## WORK CLEAN

3. Prepare the work area. Use plastic sheeting to cover floors, furniture, and other items that may collect dust. Close windows and cover doorways to work areas with plastic sheeting. Plastic sheeting isn't expensive and must be thrown out after the job is done.
4. Clean up after the work is complete. Use a wet mop with a removable head and then throw out the mop head after you're done. Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter followed by mopping to ensure surfaces are dust free. Shop vacs should not be used for cleanup because they can spread lead dust.



## QUESTIONS?

Email the New York State Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at [LPPP@health.ny.gov](mailto:LPPP@health.ny.gov).



Department  
of Health