

**GET THE
LEAD**

OUT

RENOVATION
How to safely remove
old paint

Illinois Department of
Public Health

WHERE LEAD IS FOUND

Different surfaces in a home pose varying lead-paint risks. Friction from opening and closing windows and doors can turn hazardous exterior paint into lead dust, which can be ingested by people inside. If the paint is intact, large interior surfaces, like walls and ceilings, are far less likely to pose a danger.

Where Lead Is Found in the Home



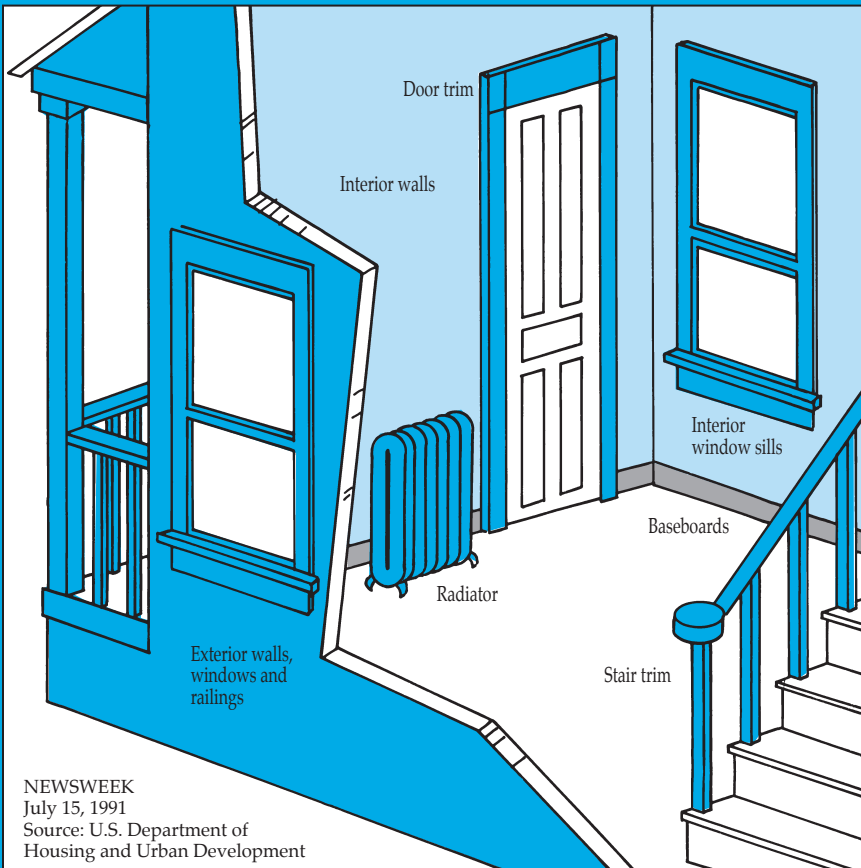
Very frequently



Frequently



Occasionally



NEWSWEEK
July 15, 1991
Source: U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development

RENOVATION

How to safely remove old paint

LEAD-BASED PAINT DANGER

Most Illinois homes built before 1978 were painted with lead-based paint. According to 2000 U.S. Census, Illinois has more than 4.8 million housing units.

- 16.3 percent or 798,295 were built between 1970 to 1979
- 14.6 percent or 715,007 were built between 1960 to 1969
- 24.4 percent or 1,190,514 were built between 1940 to 1959
- 22.6 percent or 1,103,376 were built in 1939 or earlier

Renovating or refinishing lead paint surfaces creates dust, fumes and debris that can cause lead poisoning.

Lead poisoning is a condition caused most often by eating lead paint chips or inhaling or eating leaded dust.

Children ages 6 months through 6 years are at greatest risk for lead poisoning in part because young children put everything into their mouths. Lead is especially harmful to infants and toddlers because their bodies absorb lead more easily than adult bodies do. Lead poisoning can slow a child's development and cause learning and behavior problems. Even small amounts of lead can seriously harm a young child, causing damage to the brain and nervous system. Lead also can harm pregnant women and their unborn children.

If you plan to renovate your home, have your home inspected for lead paint.

You may contact your local health department or access the Illinois Department of Public Health Web site to locate a lead inspector at <http://app.idph.state.il.us/Envhealth/Lead/LeadProfessionalListing.asp>



BE ALERT TO THE DANGERS OF REMOVING OLD PAINT

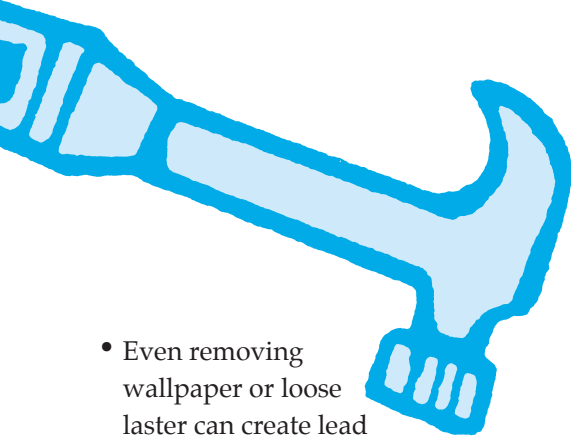
Lead can be a hazard in older homes if the work is not done properly.

- Do not remain at home during the renovation. It is especially important that young children and pregnant women not remain in areas where work is underway. When work is complete, do not re-enter the area until testing indicates it has been thoroughly cleaned.
- Only properly protected workers should enter the work area. Protective clothing, including covering for shoes, can be purchased at hardware stores.
- Federal regulations require that contractors provide a copy of a lead hazard information pamphlet to residents and day care facilities prior to starting work in pre-1978 housing. Additionally, the owner and occupant must sign a statement that the renovator distributed the pamphlet. If you hire contractors, make sure they understand the notification requirements and are familiar with the causes of lead poisoning and how to prevent lead exposure.

- If you must do the work yourself, use proper precautions to remove old paint and painted surfaces safely. Consult the publication, *Protect Your Family From Lead in the Home*, published by U.S.E.P.A. or contact the Illinois Department of Public Health's Illinois Lead Program at 217-782-3517 or 866-909-3572 or TTY 800-547-0466 for information on safe methods of renovation or remodeling.

RENOVATION SAFETY TIPS

- The safest time to renovate or remodel is when the house is unoccupied.
- Protect all food appliances, cooking and eating utensils, furniture, bedding, toys and clothing from lead dust. Remove these items from the work area or cover or bag them in plastic and seal tightly.
- Close off work areas by taping plastic sheeting over all doors, windows and the floor.
- Put plastic sheeting down in the work area to collect dust and other debris.
- Do not eat or smoke in the work area to avoid getting dust from your hands or clothing in your mouth. Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Place a damp floor mat outside the work area to collect dust from the bottom of shoes.



- Even removing wallpaper or loose plaster can create lead dust. To clean up, use a clean damp cloth or mop dampened with a cleaning product. Do not vacuum dust and debris as vacuuming may push lead dust into the air, spreading it to other parts of the house.
- Wash work clothes and clean-up rags separately from other laundry.

WHAT ABOUT RENOVATING MY HOME'S EXTERIOR?

- When removing exterior paint, seal windows and vents so dust cannot get inside the house.
- Wipe shoes on damp floor mat. Remove shoes before entering the house.
- Do not walk around clean areas of the house in work clothes.
- To remove paint chips and dust from around the outside of the house, hose off porches, sidewalks, driveways and the sides of buildings. Scrub with a stiff brush or broom and soapy water; then rinse as clean as possible. Pick up and dispose of paint chips.

SCREENING FOR LEAD POISONING

Have family members, particularly children 6 months through 6 years of age, tested for lead poisoning by a physician or other health care provider if they have occupied an older home or have been occupying an older home during renovation.

Even children who appear healthy can have dangerous levels of lead in their body. A child may experience stomachaches or headaches or exhibit decreased appetite, hyperactivity, sleeping problems or irritability. The only way to detect lead poisoning early is to bring your child to your local clinic, public health clinic or physician to have a simple blood test.

For additional information on how to safely remove old paint and clean up lead debris, paint chips and dust, or for information on lead poisoning, call the Illinois Department of Public Health's Illinois Lead Program at 217-782-3517 or 866-909-3572 or TTY 800-547-0466.

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State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Public Health

**ALL CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS THROUGH 6 YEARS
SHOULD BE ASSESSED FOR LEAD POISONING EVERY YEAR.**

For further information,
contact the Illinois Department of Public Health's **Illinois Lead Program.**

866-909-3572
217-782-3517
TTY 800-547-0466
525 W. Jefferson St., Third Floor • Springfield, IL 62761



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