

WARNING

Dry sanding and scraping of paint on a home built before 1978 may be dangerous.



About 75% of Illinois homes built before 1978 contain some lead-based paint.

Illinois has one of the highest rates in the nation for number of children with elevated blood lead levels.



Only a small amount of lead dust can cause elevated blood lead levels in children.

Exposure to lead can cause damage to brain and nervous system, learning and behavioral problems, and other long-term health problems.



DO NOT

- Eat, drink, or smoke near work area.
- Use power sanders or grinders.
- Dry scrape or dry sand surfaces.
- Use paint strippers with methylene chloride.
- Use open flame/burning torches.

WORK SMART

- Keep children, pregnant persons, and pets away from work areas.
- Seal off all heating and cooling vents in work areas.
- Cover floors and furniture with heavy plastic to contain dust and chips.
- Wet surface before sanding.
- Change clothes and shoes, and wash hands before leaving work area. Wash all clothing separately from “regular” laundry.
- Wet wipe and mop all hard surfaces with soap and water and vacuum with a HEPA-filtered vacuum when work is complete.



**For more information visit:
dph.illinois.gov/illinoislead**

