

What you need to know about

LEAD-BASED PAINT



Did you know that many homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint?

Lead from paint, paint-chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards to you and your family. Read on to discover what sellers must disclose, what you can do to protect your family and where to go for more information.

Before buying any pre-1978 home or multi-family dwelling, federal law requires:

- Sellers must disclose known information on lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards before selling a house.
- Real estate sales contracts must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint. Buyers have 10 days to check for lead.

Lead-Based Paint can be found:

- In homes in the city, country, or suburbs
- In private or public homes and apartments
- On surfaces inside and outside of the house
- In soil around a home

Checking Your Home for Lead

- A lead-based paint **inspection** tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located.
- A **risk assessment** tells you if your home currently has any lead hazards from lead in paint, dust, or soil. It also tells you what actions to take to address any hazards.

If you think your home has lead-based paint:

- Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.
- Always keep painted surfaces in good condition to minimize deterioration.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards. Find a certified inspector or risk assessor at epa.gov/lead.
- Consider fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA or state-approved Lead-Safe certified renovation firms.
- Before buying, renting, or renovating your home, have it checked for lead-based paint.
- Consult your health care provider about testing your children for lead. Your pediatrician can check for lead with a simple blood test.
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods high in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.
- Remove shoes or wipe soil of shoes before entering your house.
- Visit www.epa.gov for more information. ([PDF](#))

