

LEAD FACT SHEET

How do I Safely Set Up to Work on Exterior and Interior Lead Projects? Proper Methods for Setting up to Work Outside and Inside



If your home was built before 1978 and you are remodeling or renovating, be aware that both exterior and interior projects can produce dust, paint chips, larger pieces of material, and liquids that could contain lead. In order to keep lead hazards to a minimum, use the following guidelines when setting up work areas.

| TYPE of PROJECT | GUIDELINES |
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| Exterior (such as Board Replacement and Painting) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover the ground, sandboxes, and any flowers or plants with 6 mil polyethylene (poly) or 6 mil plastic sheeting to catch dust and trash. • Extend the poly at least 5 feet from the base of the house and an additional 3 feet from each story. • Use bricks or rocks to hold the edges of the poly in place. • Place wood studs under the edges of the poly to keep liquid from escaping. • Avoid working in windy conditions (winds greater than 15 mph). • If possible, relocate play equipment at least 20 feet away from the work area. • Close all windows and doors. • Remove personal belongings from the area before starting work. |
| Interior (such as Sanding, Baseboard Replacement, Cabinet Removal, and Painting) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close off the work area by covering entryways and all items that cannot be removed from the home, with 6 mil poly and seal with duct tape. • If necessary, leave windows open for proper ventilation. • Remove furniture, area rugs, curtains, food, clothing and other household items until cleanup is complete. • Turn off forced-air heating and air conditioning systems. • Cover heating and air conditioning vents with a layer of 6 mil poly, and tape in place with duct tape. • Cover openings such as gaps around pipes and between floor boards, with 6 mil poly and/or duct tape. • Cover exposed surfaces that cannot be removed, such as floors, carpeting, counter-tops, and shelves with 6 mil poly. • Tape around the door seals of refrigerators to prevent food contamination. |
| Carpet Removal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mist the entire surface of the carpet to reduce dust. • Roll carpet inward. • Wrap carpet and pad in 6 mil poly, and tape seams closed with duct tape. • Vacuum floor with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner after the carpet is wrapped and before you remove. • HEPA vacuum the floor after you remove the carpet. |
| Replacing or Working on Windows | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working from Inside-seal off the work area by covering entryways with 6 mil poly. • Working from Outside-tape 6 mil sheeting over the entire inside window opening. • Cover the floor inside under the window with 6 mil poly. • Cover the ground outside the window. • Spray the window sill and frame with water to reduce dust. • If possible, remove the window unit from the outside. • Collect all of dust and paint chips and dispose of them in a sealed plastic bag. |

****If you decide to hire a contractor (i.e. remodelers, home repair services), you can protect yourself, your family, and your property by ensuring that he/she follows the OSHA rule 29 CFR 1926.62, "Interim Final Rules for Lead in Construction Standard".****

To obtain the EPA booklet "Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home", or for additional information, please call the National Center for Healthy Homes www.centerforhealthyhousing.com; EPA www.epa.gov/lead National Lead information 1-800-424-lead; HUD U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (202) 708-1112; or Hearing Impaired Federal Information Relay Service 1-800-877-8339.