

Ways to Work Lead-Safe for Parents/Guardians as Homeowners

(As of April 22, 2010, rental property owners/managers are restricted by Michigan law from fixing lead hazards on their own without proper training/certification. See the Report Summary for more details about training.)

The Fuss About Dust - Choose ways to work that create the least amount of dust

- Hand sand wetted surfaces
- Use chemical strippers (but not those containing methylene chloride)
- Use heat guns (but not those that operate over 700°F)
- Consider buying or borrowing a HEPA vacuum from your local health department, which can be safely used where there is lead dust

Play It Safe - Always follow these safety guidelines as you work

- Keep children and pregnant women out of the work area.
- Work on one room at a time.
- Remove as much furniture as you can from the room.
- Cover remaining furniture with 6 mil plastic securely taped in place.
 - Close off the work area by taping 6 mil plastic over all doors, windows, the floor, ground and other exposed surfaces.
 - Turn off forced-air heating and cooling systems and cover vents with 6 mil plastic securely taped in place.
 - Allow only workers in the area until the job is done. Be careful not to track dust out of the work area.
- Don't eat, drink, or smoke while in the work area.
 - Use a plant mister to wet the work surface before hand scraping and sanding. Mist drop cloths/plastic sheets before rolling up. Misting will reduce dust.
 - If others do the work, ensure they follow these work practices to protect your family's health and safety.

The Right Stuff - Using the proper equipment will help you complete your job safely

- Protective clothing (such as safety glasses, disposable gloves, hat, shoe covers, and protective clothes)
- 6 mil plastic drop cloths
- Duct tape
- Mops and two buckets
- All purpose cleaner or cleaner made just for lead clean-up
- Spray bottles/plant misters
- Disposable rags or paper towels
- Heavy duty plastic bags
- HEPA vacuum

Leave the Scene Clean - Always clean up carefully at the end of each workday

- Change work clothes and shoes before leaving the work site.
- Wash hands and face immediately after leaving the work area.
- Shower and wash hair as soon as possible after work/cleanup is completed.
- Wash work clothes separately.

At Final Clean-Up

- Place all dust and chips in double garbage bags.
 - Carefully roll or fold 6 mil plastic drop cloths inward (keep the dust from flying around) and discard in double garbage bags.
- Use two buckets for cleaning, one with detergent and one with clean rinse water.
 - Wash floors, walls, etc with an all purpose cleaner and disposable or paper towels, then rinse well. Change rinse water often.
- Dispose of towels in plastic bags.
- Never burn leaded debris.

Take It Off, Slowly - Never use these dangerous paint-removal methods

- Don't dry scrape
- Don't sandblast
- Don't use an open flame or torch to burn paint
- Don't power sand
- Don't use methylene chloride
- Don't use heat guns which operate over 700°F

Lead-safe information adopted from the 'Keep It Clean' campaign of the Rhode Island Department of Health