



# Basic Lead-Safe Work Practices

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board - Lead Hazard Reduction Program  
149 State Street, Montpelier, Vt. 05602

Phone 1-800-290-0527

## Seal Off the Area

- Keep children and pregnant women out of the room.
- Remove as much furniture as you can from the room. Cover remaining furniture with heavy plastic sheets.
- Cover the work area floor with heavy plastic.
- Be careful not to track dust out of the area.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while working

## Avoid Dust, Chips or Fumes

- Mist paint before you scrape or sand. Water helps keep lead dust from the air.
- Don't sand blast or power wash. This creates clouds of lead dust. Power sanders or grinders should have HEPA filters and hoods to trap dust.
- Do not use open flames or heat guns above 1100° F.
- Do not use paint strippers with methylene chloride

## Keep the Area Clean

- Place trash in heavy plastic bags.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter to clean up dust and debris.
- Scrub floors and walls with soap and water. Rinse well with clean water.
- Never burn trash with lead in it.
- Conduct a dust test to be sure the area is safe for children or pregnant women.

## Keep Dust Off Yourself

- Be careful not to track lead dust around your home.
- Change work clothes and shoes right after you leave the work area.
- Wash work clothes separately from your family's laundry.
- Shower and wash your hair as soon as possible.

## Use the Right Supplies

- Safety glasses and special work clothes, gloves, hat and shoes
- Heavy plastic sheets and tape
- Two pails -one to wash and one to rinse
- Soap and water
- Spray bottle to wet down work surfaces
- Rags or paper towels
- Heavy plastic trash bags
- HEPA vacuum to capture dust.
- Dust mask or respirator if dust is heavy