

Vermont Lead Law – Seller’s Obligations

The Vermont Lead Law was passed in 1996 and updated in 2008 (18 VSA Chapter 38). The law requires sellers to provide lead disclosure information and educational materials approved by the Vermont Department of Health during real estate transactions for all pre-1978 housing, whether owner-occupied or rental. 18 V.S.A. § 1767. The law applies to residential properties built before 1978. Use the table below to determine the disclosure forms and educational materials required by the Lead Law. The disclosure forms and education materials are available on the Vermont Department of Health website at: <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/lead/RealEstateTransactions.aspx>

Type of Property	Vermont Law Disclosure Form ¹	Educational Materials	When to Provide to Buyer	File Disclosure Form with Health Dept.
Certified Lead Free	Lead-Free Disclosure Form	None	As early as possible, but no later than at the time of sale	Yes
Owner-occupied single-family home	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home</i> • <i>Lead Hazards in Housing</i> • <i>Don't Spread Lead</i> (brochure) 	Prior to Purchase & Sale Prior to Purchase & Sale At time of sale	No
Owner-occupied single-family home, subject to an Order ²	Single-Family Disclosure Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home</i> • <i>Lead Hazards in Housing</i> • <i>Don't Spread Lead</i> (brochure) 	Prior to Purchase & Sale Prior to Purchase & Sale At time of sale	Yes
Residential Rental Property, applies to all properties whether or not the property is subject to an Order ^{2,3}	Rental Disclosure & EMP Verification Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Essential Maintenance Practices & the Vermont Lead Law</i> • <i>Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home</i> • <i>Lead Hazards in Housing</i> • <i>Don't Spread Lead</i> (brochure) 	Prior to time of Sale Prior to Purchase & Sale Prior to Purchase & Sale At time of sale	Yes

¹ A separate disclosure form is required by Federal law.

² Prior to executing a purchase and sale agreement and again at the time of sale, the seller must disclose any court order, including any assurance of discontinuance or administrative order that applies to the property, unless all the terms of the order have been fully completed. Prior to sale, the seller must either fully complete all the obligations under any court order, or the order must be amended in writing to transfer all remaining obligations to the buyer.

³ Rental properties include duplexes and other multi-family dwellings, but do not include transient occupancy facilities such as hotels and motels that are rented for 30 days or less. For further information see the definitions of “target housing” and “rental target housing” in 18 V.S.A. § 1751.

Rev October 2009



Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home



United States
Environmental
Protection Agency



United States
Consumer Product
Safety Commission



United States
Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Are You Planning to Buy or Rent a Home Built Before 1978?

Did you know that many homes built before 1978 have **lead-based paint**? Lead from paint, chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards.

Read this entire brochure to learn:

- How lead gets into the body
- How lead affects health
- What you can do to protect your family
- Where to go for more information

Before renting or buying a pre-1978 home or apartment, 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 up to 10 days to check for lead.
- Landlords must disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. Leases must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint.

If undertaking renovations, repairs, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or apartment:

- Read EPA's pamphlet, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*, to learn about the lead-safe work practices that contractors are required to follow when working in your home (see page 12).



Simple Steps to Protect Your Family from Lead 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.
- Talk to your landlord about 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 off shoes before entering your house.

Lead Gets into the Body in Many Ways

Adults and children can get lead into their bodies if they:

- Breathe in lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs, or painting that disturb painted surfaces).
- Swallow lead dust that has settled on food, food preparation surfaces, and other places.
- Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead.

Lead is especially dangerous to children under the age of 6.

- At this age, children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead.
- Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. These objects can have lead dust on them.



Women of childbearing age should know that lead is dangerous to a developing fetus.

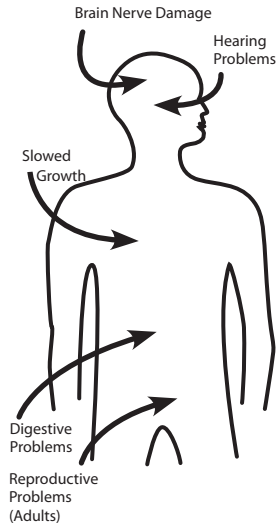
- Women with a high lead level in their system before or during pregnancy risk exposing the fetus to lead through the placenta during fetal development.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead affects the body in many ways. It is important to know that even exposure to low levels of lead can severely harm children.

In children, exposure to lead can cause:

- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention-deficit disorder, and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language, and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage



While low-lead exposure is most common, exposure to high amounts of lead can have devastating effects on children, including seizures, unconsciousness, and in some cases, death.

Although children are especially susceptible to lead exposure, lead can be dangerous for adults, too.

In adults, exposure to lead can cause:

- Harm to a developing fetus
- Increased chance of high blood pressure during pregnancy
- Fertility problems (in men and women)
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems
- Nerve disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pain

Check Your Family for Lead

Get your children and home tested if you think your home has lead.

Children's blood lead levels tend to increase rapidly from 6 to 12 months of age, and tend to peak at 18 to 24 months of age.

Consult your doctor for advice on testing your children. A simple blood test can detect lead. Blood lead tests are usually recommended for:

- Children at ages 1 and 2
- Children or other family members who have been exposed to high levels of lead
- Children who should be tested under your state or local health screening plan

Your doctor can explain what the test results mean and if more testing will be needed.

Where Lead-Based Paint Is Found

In general, the older your home or childcare facility, the more likely it has lead-based paint.¹

Many homes, including private, federally-assisted, federally-owned housing, and childcare facilities built before 1978 have lead-based paint. In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint.²

Learn how to determine if paint is lead-based paint on page 7.

Lead can be found:

- In homes and childcare facilities in the city, country, or suburbs,
- In private and public single-family homes and apartments,
- On surfaces inside and outside of the house, and
- In soil around a home. (Soil can pick up lead from exterior paint or other sources, such as past use of leaded gas in cars.)

Learn more about where lead is found at epa.gov/lead.

¹ "Lead-based paint" is currently defined by the federal government as paint with lead levels greater than or equal to 1.0 milligram per square centimeter (mg/cm), or more than 0.5% by weight.

² "Lead-containing paint" is currently defined by the federal government as lead in new dried paint in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

Identifying Lead-Based Paint and Lead-Based Paint Hazards

Deteriorating lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, or damaged paint) is a hazard and needs immediate attention. **Lead-based paint** may also be a hazard when found on surfaces that children can chew or that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

- On windows and window sills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters, and porches

Lead-based paint is usually not a hazard if it is in good condition and if it is not on an impact or friction surface like a window.

Lead dust can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. Lead dust also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together. Lead paint chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can reenter the air when the home is vacuumed or swept, or when people walk through it. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in dust as hazardous:

- 40 micrograms per square foot ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) and higher for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ and higher for interior window sills

Lead in soil can be a hazard when children play in bare soil or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in soil as hazardous:

- 400 parts per million (ppm) and higher in play areas of bare soil
- 1,200 ppm (average) and higher in bare soil in the remainder of the yard

Remember, lead from paint chips—which you can see—and lead dust—which you may not be able to see—both can be hazards.

The only way to find out if paint, dust, or soil lead hazards exist is to test for them. The next page describes how to do this.

Checking Your Home for Lead

You can get your home tested for lead in several different ways:

- A lead-based paint **inspection** tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether your home currently has lead hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a lead-based paint inspector, will conduct a paint inspection using methods, such as:
 - Portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine
 - Lab tests of paint samples
- 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. A trained and certified testing professional, called a risk assessor, will:
 - Sample paint that is deteriorated on doors, windows, floors, stairs, and walls
 - Sample dust near painted surfaces and sample bare soil in the yard
 - Get lab tests of paint, dust, and soil samples
- A combination inspection and risk assessment tells you if your home has any lead-based paint and if your home has any lead hazards, and where both are located.



Checking Your Home for Lead, continued

In preparing for renovation, repair, or painting work in a pre-1978 home, Lead-Safe Certified renovators (see page 12) may:

- Take paint chip samples to determine if lead-based paint is present in the area planned for renovation and send them to an EPA-recognized lead lab for analysis. In housing receiving federal assistance, the person collecting these samples must be a certified lead-based paint inspector or risk assessor
- Use EPA-recognized tests kits to determine if lead-based paint is absent (but not in housing receiving federal assistance)
- Presume that lead-based paint is present and use lead-safe work practices

There are state and federal programs in place to ensure that testing is done safely, reliably, and effectively. Contact your state or local agency for more information, visit epa.gov/lead, or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)** for a list of contacts in your area.³

³ Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

What You Can Do Now to Protect Your Family

If you suspect that your house has lead-based paint hazards, you can take some immediate steps to reduce your family's risk:

- If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
- Keep painted surfaces clean and free of dust. Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. (Remember: never mix ammonia and bleach products together because they can form a dangerous gas.)
- Carefully clean up paint chips immediately without creating dust.
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads often during cleaning of dirty or dusty areas, and again afterward.
- Wash your hands and your children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time.
- Keep play areas clean. Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys, and stuffed animals regularly.
- Keep children from chewing window sills or other painted surfaces, or eating soil.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe Certified renovation firms (see page 12).
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Make sure children eat nutritious, low-fat meals high in iron, and calcium, such as spinach and dairy products. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

Reducing Lead Hazards

Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house.

- In addition to day-to-day cleaning and good nutrition, you can **temporarily** reduce lead-based paint hazards by taking actions, such as repairing damaged painted surfaces and planting grass to cover lead-contaminated soil. These actions are not permanent solutions and will need ongoing attention.



- You can minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing, or painting by hiring an EPA- or state-certified renovator who is trained in the use of lead-safe work practices. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, learn how to use lead-safe work practices in your home.
- To remove lead hazards permanently, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement (or permanent hazard elimination) methods include removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Just painting over the hazard with regular paint is not permanent control.

Always use a certified contractor who is trained to address lead hazards safely.

- Hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm (see page 12) to perform renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects that disturb painted surfaces.
- To correct lead hazards permanently, hire a certified lead abatement professional. This will ensure your contractor knows how to work safely and has the proper equipment to clean up thoroughly.

Certified contractors will employ qualified workers and follow strict safety rules as set by their state or by the federal government.

Reducing Lead Hazards, continued

If your home has had lead abatement work done or if the housing is receiving federal assistance, once the work is completed, dust cleanup activities must be conducted until clearance testing indicates that lead dust levels are below the following levels:

- 40 micrograms per square foot ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for interior windows sills
- 400 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for window troughs

For help in locating certified lead abatement professionals in your area, call your state or local agency (see pages 14 and 15), or visit epa.gov/lead, or call 1-800-424-LEAD.

Renovating, Repairing or Painting a Home with Lead-Based Paint

If you hire a contractor to conduct renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or childcare facility (such as pre-school and kindergarten), your contractor must:

- Be a Lead-Safe Certified firm approved by EPA or an EPA-authorized state program
- Use qualified trained individuals (Lead-Safe Certified renovators) who follow specific lead-safe work practices to prevent lead contamination
- Provide a copy of EPA's lead hazard information document, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*



RRP contractors working in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities must follow lead-safe work practices that:

- **Contain the work area.** The area must be contained so that dust and debris do not escape from the work area. Warning signs must be put up, and plastic or other impermeable material and tape must be used.
- **Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.** Some methods generate so much lead-contaminated dust that their use is prohibited. They are:
 - Open-flame burning or torching
 - Sanding, grinding, planing, needle gunning, or blasting with power tools and equipment not equipped with a shroud and HEPA vacuum attachment
 - Using a heat gun at temperatures greater than 1100°F
- **Clean up thoroughly.** The work area should be cleaned up daily. When all the work is done, the area must be cleaned up using special cleaning methods.
- **Dispose of waste properly.** Collect and seal waste in a heavy duty bag or sheeting. When transported, ensure that waste is contained to prevent release of dust and debris.

To learn more about EPA's requirements for RRP projects, visit epa.gov/getleadsafe, or read *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*.

Other Sources of Lead

Lead in Drinking Water

The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures.

Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986.

You can't smell or taste lead in drinking water.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, have your water tested.

Remember older homes with a private well can also have plumbing materials that contain lead.

Important Steps You Can Take to Reduce Lead in Drinking Water

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Remember, boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- If you use a filter certified to remove lead, don't forget to read the directions to learn when to change the cartridge. Using a filter after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead.

Contact your water company to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead. Your area's water company can also provide information about the lead levels in your system's drinking water.

For more information about lead in drinking water, please contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. If you have other questions about lead poisoning prevention, call 1-800 424-LEAD.*

Call your local health department or water company to find out about testing your water, or visit epa.gov/safewater for EPA's lead in drinking water information. Some states or utilities offer programs to pay for water testing for residents. Contact your state or local water company to learn more.

* Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Other Sources of Lead, continued

- **Lead smelters** or other industries that release lead into the air.
- **Your job.** If you work with lead, you could bring it home on your body or clothes. Shower and change clothes before coming home. Launder your work clothes separately from the rest of your family's clothes.
- **Hobbies** that use lead, such as making pottery or stained glass, or refinishing furniture. Call your local health department for information about hobbies that may use lead.
- Old **toys** and **furniture** may have been painted with lead-containing paint. Older toys and other children's products may have parts that contain lead.⁴
- Food and liquids cooked or stored in **lead crystal** or **lead-glazed pottery or porcelain** may contain lead.
- Folk remedies, such as "**greta**" and "**azarcon,**" used to treat an upset stomach.

⁴ In 1978, the federal government banned toys, other children's products, and furniture with lead-containing paint. In 2008, the federal government banned lead in most children's products. The federal government currently bans lead in excess of 100 ppm by weight in most children's products.

For More Information

The National Lead Information Center

Learn how to protect children from lead poisoning and get other information about lead hazards on the Web at epa.gov/safewater and hud.gov/lead, or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)**.

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For information about lead in drinking water, call **1-800-426-4791**, or visit epa.gov/lead for information about lead in drinking water.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Hotline

For information on lead in toys and other consumer products, or to report an unsafe consumer product or a product-related injury, call **1-800-638-2772**, or visit CPSC's website at cpsc.gov or saferproducts.gov.

State and Local Health and Environmental Agencies

Some states, tribes, and cities have their own rules related to lead-based paint. Check with your local agency to see which laws apply to you. Most agencies can also provide information on finding a lead abatement firm in your area, and on possible sources of financial aid for reducing lead hazards. Receive up-to-date address and phone information for your state or local contacts on the Web at epa.gov/safewater, or contact the National Lead Information Center at **1-800-424-LEAD**.

Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access any of the phone numbers in this brochure through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at **1-800-877-8339**.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Regional Offices

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Your Regional EPA Office can provide further information regarding regulations and lead protection programs.

Region 1 (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, OES 05-4
Boston, MA 02109-3912
(888) 372-7341

Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 2
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Building 205, Mail Stop 225
Edison, NJ 08837-3679
(732) 321-6671

Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, DC, West Virginia)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 814-2088

Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 4
AFC Tower, 12th Floor, Air, Pesticides & Toxics
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8998

Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 5 (DT-8J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3666
(312) 886-7836

Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and 66 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
(214) 665-2704

Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd.
WWPD/TOPE
Lenexa, KS 66219
(800) 223-0425

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6966

Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 9 (CMD-4-2)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 947-4280

Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 10
Solid Waste & Toxics Unit (WCM-128)
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1200

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

The CPSC protects the public against unreasonable risk of injury from consumer products through education, safety standards activities, and enforcement. Contact CPSC for further information regarding consumer product safety and regulations.

CPSC

4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-4421
1-800-638-2772
cpsc.gov or saferproducts.gov

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. Contact HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control for further information regarding the Lead Safe Housing Rule, which protects families in pre-1978 assisted housing, and for the lead hazard control and research grant programs.

HUD

451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8236
Washington, DC 20410-3000
(202) 402-7698
hud.gov/offices/lead/

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IMPORTANT!

Lead From Paint, Dust, and Soil in and Around Your Home Can Be Dangerous if Not Managed Properly

- Children under 6 years old are most at risk for lead poisoning in your home.
- Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.
- Homes, schools, and child care facilities built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Even children who seem healthy may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.
- Disturbing surfaces with lead-based paint or removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.
- People can get lead into their bodies by breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.
- People have many options for reducing lead hazards. Generally, lead-based paint that is in good condition is not a hazard (see page 10).

The Vermont Lead Law requires owners of residential rental buildings and child care facilities built before 1978 to help prevent lead poisoning. **Lead poisoning is 100% preventable.**



Owners of rental properties (or the property management company) and child care providers are required to do the following **each year**:

- **Post a notice** asking people to report chipping or damaged paint (available online at healthvermont.gov/emp). Owners of rental properties must also give tenants the “Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home” booklet.
- **Ensure Essential Maintenance Practices (EMPs) are completed** by a certified person who has attended a training approved by the Health Department. A list of training classes is available online at leadsafevermont.org.
- **File a compliance statement** certifying that EMPs have been done. It can be filed online at secure.vermont.gov/VDH/emp.
- **Provide a copy of the compliance statement** to tenants (owners of rental properties only) or the Department for Children and Families (child care providers only) and to their insurance carrier.



What are Essential Maintenance Practices?

EMPs must be completed each year by a certified person and include:

- Inspecting the property inside and outside.
- Identifying areas where paint is in poor condition (chipping or peeling) and promptly fixing it in a lead-safe way.
- Verifying the installation of window well inserts in all wooden windows.
- Removing any visible paint chips on the ground outside the building.
- Performing specialized cleaning.
- Taking precautions when remodeling to prevent the spread of lead dust.



Vermont’s Lead Law Protects Children

Simple maintenance practices can prevent children from being poisoned by lead. Each year about 400 Vermont children are poisoned by lead. Lead poisoning can cause developmental delays, behavior problems, and other health effects. Over time, lead paint crumbles into invisible dust that contaminates homes and soil. Dust or soil clings to hands, toys and objects that children put in their mouths. Children can also eat, chew or suck on lead-painted objects such as windowsills. Learn more at healthvermont.gov/lead.



For More Information

Call the Vermont Asbestos & Lead Regulatory Program at 802-863-7220 or 800-439-8550 (toll-free in Vermont) or visit healthvermont.gov/environment/asbestos-lead.



Lead poisoning is a serious but *preventable* health problem. Lead is a highly toxic metal that can harm anyone, but young children and pregnant women are at special risk.

Too much lead in the body, or lead poisoning, in children can:

- Hurt the brain, kidneys, and nervous system
- Slow down growth and development
- Make it hard to learn
- Damage hearing and speech
- Cause behavior problems

In pregnant women, lead can increase the risk of miscarriage and cause babies to be born too early, too small, or with learning or behavior problems. In adults, lead can cause high blood pressure and result in decreased fertility in men.

Lead Paint in Housing

In Vermont, children are most often lead poisoned from lead dust, either by eating it when they put their hands or objects in their mouths or by breathing it in. Adults can be exposed to lead during renovation projects or whenever lead paint is improperly sanded, scraped or burned.

The most common source of lead dust is in houses built before 1978, the year lead was banned from house paint. Most homes built before that year still

contain lead. Even if the home has been repainted, the action of opening and closing doors and windows can release lead dust from the original paint into the home.

Lead in Soil and Water

Soil may be contaminated with lead along the side of older homes from lead-based paint flaking off and near roadways or driveways from car exhaust when leaded gasoline was widely used. Small amounts of lead may occur naturally in soil. Some lead contamination comes from industrial sources such as lead battery manufacturing plants or brass foundries. This soil can be tracked into the house on shoes. It is very easy for a child to swallow some of this contaminated dirt while playing outside. To prevent lead poisoning, children should never play in bare soil.

Drinking water may contain lead from old lead pipes, plumbing fixtures, or solder. Always run the water until it is cold to use for cooking, drinking, and making baby formula. Lead pipes should be replaced.

Lead-Safe Work Practices

The Vermont Lead Law – passed in 1996 and updated in 2008 (18 VSA Chapter 38) – is designed to protect children and families from lead hazards.

The law assumes all paint in pre-1978 housing is lead-based, unless a licensed lead inspector or lead risk assessor has determined that it is lead-free. The law prohibits certain unsafe work practices that increase the risk of lead exposure and requires lead-safe work practices when disturbing more than 1 square foot of paint in pre-1978 housing.

Prohibited work practices include removing paint by:

- Open flame burning or torching
- Use of heat guns operated above 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Dry scraping
- Machine sanding or grinding
- Uncontained hydro-blasting or high-pressure washing
- Abrasive blasting or sandblasting without containment and high-efficiency particulate exhaust controls

Required safe work practices include:

- Limiting access to interior and exterior work areas
- Enclosing interior work areas with plastic sheeting or other effective lead dust barrier
- Using protective clothing
- Misting painted surfaces with water before disturbing paint
- Wet-mopping during cleanup to limit the creation of dust

Other Sources of Lead

Jobs that can expose workers to lead:

- Construction and renovation work
- Auto repair and work with batteries
- Plumbing
- Welding or soldering

Dishware that can contain lead:

- Glazed pottery, like bean pots
- Metal pots with lead solder (samovars)
- Antique or vintage dishware

Products that can contain lead:

- Toy jewelry made in other countries
- Toys made in other countries
- Imported candy, especially from Mexico
- Imported make-up and home remedies

Hobbies that can expose you to lead:

- Stained glass
- Bullets
- Fishing sinkers

Check with the Consumer Product Safety Commission regularly for recalled products that are lead hazards: www.cpsc.gov

For more information call the Healthy Homes Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (802) 863-7220 or (800) 439-8550 (toll-free in Vermont) or visit healthvermont.gov

If you are doing **major** repairs or renovations that may create a lot of dust—jobs like replacing windows—consider taking a training course in lead-safe work practices. Or consider hiring a qualified contractor who has been trained in lead-safe practices.

For more information about working lead-safe, contact your state's public health agency or the other agencies listed below.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	www.epa.gov/ne/eco/ne_lead
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	www.hud.gov/offices/lead
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	www.cdc.gov/nceh.lead/lead.htm
New England Lead Coordinating Committee	www.nelcc.uconn.edu

For a CD showing how to work lead-safe, contact the Vermont Department of Health at 800-439-8550 (toll free in Vermont), or see the online version at <http://www.leadSAFEvermont.org/home.html>. This program is available in English and Spanish.

Don't Spread Lead has been written for do-it-yourselfers. It is not intended for paid contractors, renovators, maintenance workers, painters, and other tradespeople.

Paid contractors who are renovating, repairing, or painting homes, child-care facilities, and many schools that were built before 1978 must comply with a new rule issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule of 2008 requires these contractors to use specific lead-safe work practices. The practices are similar to the ones described in this booklet for do-it-yourselfers but have more detailed requirements.

If you are hiring a contractor, make sure that the contractor knows about this EPA rule and will follow its requirements.

For more information about the rule, see <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>.



The *Don't Spread Lead* booklet was developed by the New England Lead Coordinating Committee
www.nelcc.uconn.edu

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Don't Spread Lead

A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Lead-Safe Painting, Repair, and Home Improvement



Are you working on an older house?

If you are working on a house built before 1978, learn how to protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors from lead poisoning.

Maybe you are painting a room for a new baby.

Or maybe you are repairing a door that sticks.

These and similar small projects can be great do-it-yourself jobs. But if you are working in a house that was built before 1978, it may contain lead paint.



Common fix-up jobs (such as painting a room or repairing a door that sticks) can create dust or paint chips that contain lead.

Lead is a poison that is dangerous to you, your family, and your neighbors.

Why should you work lead-safe?

When people swallow or breathe in lead dust, they can become lead poisoned. It takes only a very small amount of lead to poison someone.

Lead is especially dangerous for children. It can harm their brains and cause serious learning and behavior problems. It is very dangerous for pregnant women and their unborn babies.



Lead can also make adults sick.

How can you work lead-safe?

You can learn how to protect yourself when you work around lead paint.

The following list outlines five important steps to work lead-safe.

To learn more about these five steps, download the booklet *Don't Spread Lead* from http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/lead/documents/Dont_Spread_Lead_2008.pdf

Lead-safety summary

- 1. Protect your family and your neighbors.**
 - Keep your family and neighbors out of the work area.
- 2. Prepare your work area.**
 - Empty the room.
 - Close it off from the rest of the house.
 - Bring in your supplies.
- 3. Protect yourself from lead dust.**
 - Put on safety equipment, such as safety glasses and disposable coverings.
 - Do not eat, drink, or smoke in the work area.
- 4. Work wet.**
 - Lightly mist painted surfaces except near electrical outlets.
 - Scrape or sand by hand, not with power tools.
- 5. Work clean.**
 - Keep dust inside the work area.
 - Clean often, using damp rags or paper towels.
 - Use a HEPA vacuum cleaner, a special vacuum cleaner that traps tiny bits of lead dust.
 - Wash and rinse.
 - Dispose of trash safely.
 - Check your work.

The list above is just an outline. Learn more before you start repairs or renovations.