

# Protect Your Children from Lead Dust When Repairs are made in your Home!

**ASSUME THAT LEAD IS IN YOUR HOME** *if it was built before 1978.* In 1978, lead in house paint, furniture and toys was banned by the federal government because of the damage it was doing to children's ability to learn and behave. If the paint is peeling, has alligator cracks or is damaged it is a hazard and in need of repair.



**PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN.** *Children and pregnant women should leave home during repairs and return when the work area has been cleaned.* Lead dust from some repair methods can permanently harm the brains and bodies of young children, even before they are born.

**AVOID CREATING LEAD DUST.** *Never dry scrape or sand old painted surfaces.*

These methods disperse lead dust through the house. Always *wet* scrape loose or peeling paint after misting with water to remove deteriorated paint. And avoid creating lead fumes with propane torches or heating guns over 1100 degrees. Remove all furniture and rugs. Cover the heavy furniture, floors, and vents with plastic. Contain the work area with plastic to avoid spreading dust.



**CLEAN WORK AREA** with a general purpose cleaner in water and if available, use a HEPA vacuum or borrow one from your local health department, before the family is allowed to return to the home. Lead dust is sticky and so tiny it can't be seen. An area may look clean but still be contaminated with lead dust.

**MAINTAIN A DRY HOME.** A leaking roof or pipes can create a lead hazard on painted surfaces. Repair all leaks or tell your landlord.



It is always recommended to use a professional trained in lead-safe work practices if you know you have a problem with lead in your home. If you want to know about trained professionals in your area or would like more information on how to do the work yourself in a safe manner, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD and ask for brochures "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home" and "Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home" or go on line at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or [www.hud.gov/offices/lead/](http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/).

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