

## SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM LEAD HAZARDS

If you think your home has high levels of lead:

- Get your children tested for lead, even if they seem healthy.
- Wash children's clothes, bottles, pacifiers and toys often.
- Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- Wipe soil off shoes before entering the house.
- Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards.
- Don't try to remove lead based paint yourself.
- Don't use a belt sander, propane torch, high temperature heat gun, scraper or sandpaper on painted surfaces that may contain lead.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling or renovating (**call 1-800-424-LEAD for guidelines**).



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## Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home



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

Many houses and apartments built before 1978 have paint that contains high levels of lead (called lead-based paint). Lead from paint, chips and dust can pose serious health hazards, if not taken care of properly.

Federal law requires that individuals receive certain information before renting, buying or renovating pre-1978 housing.

**Owners, Buyers and Brokers** are encouraged to check for lead before renting, buying or renovating pre-1978 housing

**Landlords** have to disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. Leases must include a disclosure about lead-based paint.

**Sellers** have to disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before selling a house. Sales contracts must include a disclosure about lead based paint. Buyers have up to 10 days to check for lead.

**Renovators** disturbing more than 2 square feet of painted surfaces have to give you a pamphlet before starting work.

## Checking Your Home for Lead

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

- A paint **inspection** tells you whether your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether or not your home currently has lead hazards.
- 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 **combination risk assessment and inspection** tells you if your home has any lead-based paint, and where the lead based paint is located.

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 or call **1-800-424-Lead** for a list of contacts in your area.

**Home test kits for lead are available, but may not be accurate.** Consumers should not rely on these kits before doing renovations or to assure safety.

## Remodeling or Renovating A Home With Lead-Based Paint.

Take precautions before you or your contractor begin remodeling or renovating anything that disturbs painted surfaces (such as scraping off paint or tearing out walls):

- **Have the area tested for lead-based paint.**
- **Temporarily move your family** (especially children and pregnant women) out of the apartment or house until the work is done and the area is properly cleaned. If you can't move your family then at least completely seal off the work area.
- **Follow other safety measures to reduce lead hazards.** You can find out other safety measures by calling **1-800-424-LEAD**. Ask for the brochure "*Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home*" This brochure explains what to do before, during and after renovations.

**If not conducted properly, certain types of renovations can release lead from paint and dust into the air.**