

**GET THE  
LEAD**

**OUT**

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**RENOVATION**  
How to safely remove  
old paint

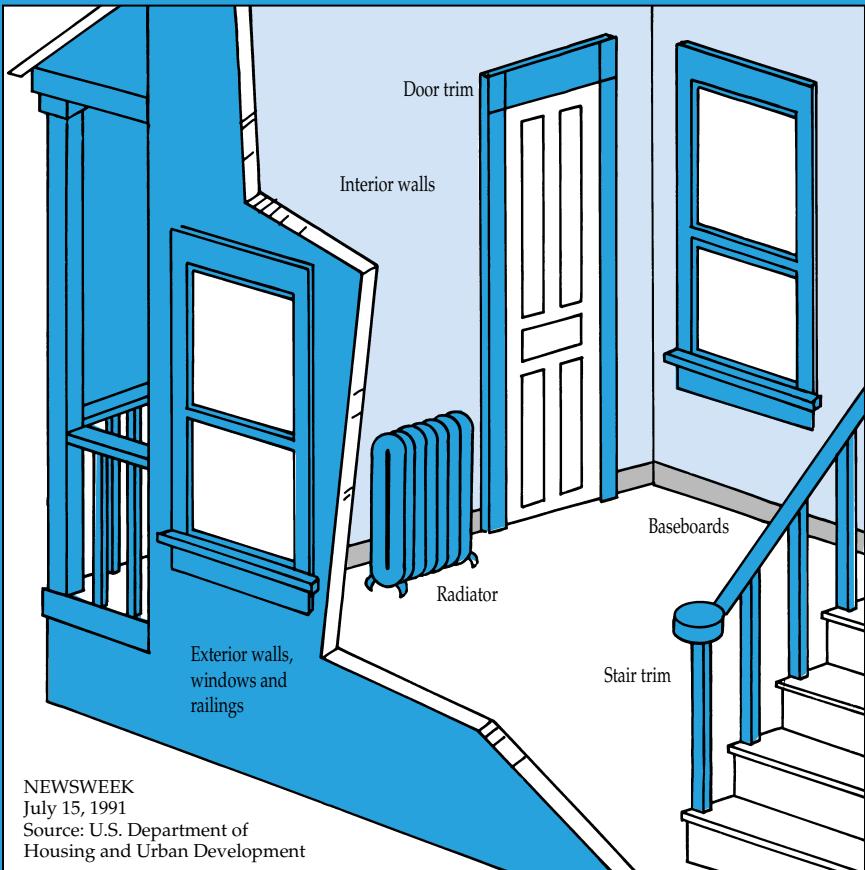
**Illinois Department of  
Public Health**

## WHERE LEAD IS FOUND

Different surfaces in a home pose varying lead-paint risks. Friction from opening and closing windows and doors can turn hazardous exterior paint into lead dust, which can be ingested by people inside. If the paint is intact, large interior surfaces, like walls and ceilings, are far less likely to pose a danger.

### Where Lead Is Found in the Home

 Very frequently     Frequently     Occasionally



NEWSWEEK  
July 15, 1991  
Source: U.S. Department of  
Housing and Urban Development

# RENOVATION

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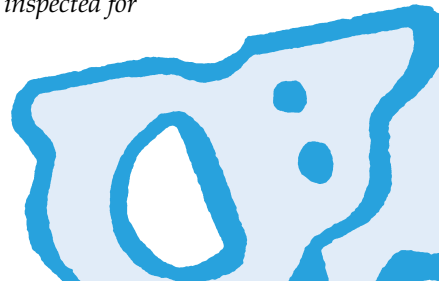
## LEAD-BASED PAINT DANGER


Most Illinois homes built before 1978 were painted with lead-based paint. Renovating or refinishing lead paint surfaces creates dust, fumes and debris that can cause lead poisoning.

Lead poisoning is a condition caused most often by eating lead paint chips or inhaling or eating leaded dust. Lead poisoning is one of the most common and most serious child health problems. It is estimated that two out of every 10 children in Illinois have blood lead levels that are too high. City, suburban and rural children are all at risk.

Children ages 6 months through 6 years are at greatest risk for lead poisoning in part because young children put everything into their mouths. Lead is especially harmful to infants and toddlers because their bodies absorb lead more easily than adult bodies do. Lead poisoning can slow a child's development and cause learning and behavior problems. Even small amounts of lead can seriously harm a young child, causing damage to the brain, kidneys and stomach. Lead also can harm pregnant women and their unborn children.

*If you plan to renovate your home, have your home inspected for lead paint.*





The only way to find out if your home contains lead paint is to have an inspection. Contact your local health department for information on lead inspections.

## BE ALERT TO THE DANGERS OF REMOVING OLD PAINT

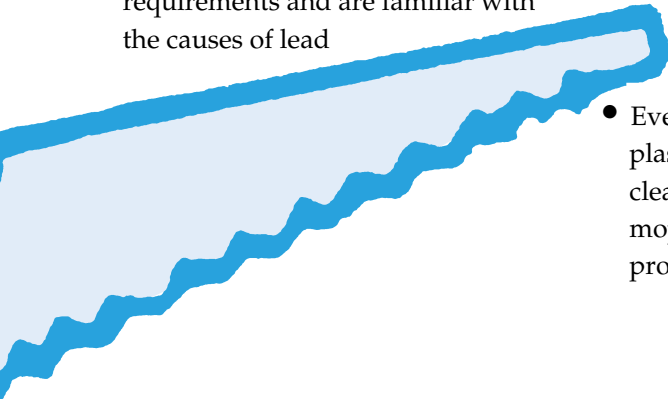
To protect your family from lead during renovation —

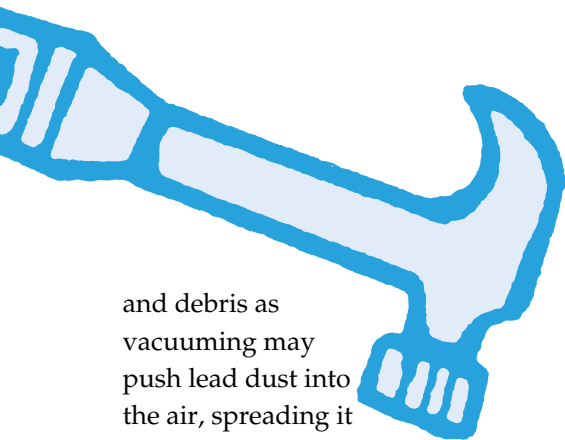
- Do not remain at home during the renovation. It is especially important that young children and pregnant women not remain in areas where work is underway. When work is complete, do not reenter the area until it has been thoroughly cleaned.
- Only properly protected workers should enter the work area.
- Renovators working in residential dwellings and day care facilities must provide the owner and occupant with an educational pamphlet. Additionally, the owner and occupant must sign a statement that the renovator distributed the pamphlet. If you hire contractors, make sure they understand the notification requirements and are familiar with the causes of lead

poisoning and how to prevent lead exposure.

- If you must do the work yourself, use proper precautions to remove old paint and painted surfaces safely. Contact the Illinois Department of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 217-782-3517 or 217-782-0403 or 800-545-2200 or TTY 800-547-0466 for information on safe methods of renovation or re-modeling.

## RENOVATION SAFETY TIPS

- The safest time to renovate or remodel is when the house is unoccupied.
  - Protect all food appliances, cooking and eating utensils, furniture, bedding, toys and clothing from lead dust. Remove these items from the work area or cover or bag them in plastic and seal tightly.
  - Do not eat or smoke in the work area to avoid getting dust from your hands or clothing in your mouth. Wash your hands thoroughly.
  - Place a damp floor mat outside the work area to collect dust from the bottom of shoes.
  - Even removing wallpaper or loose plaster can create lead dust. To clean up, use a clean damp cloth or mop dampened with a cleaning product. Do not vacuum dust
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and debris as vacuuming may push lead dust into the air, spreading it to other parts of the house.

- Wash work clothes and clean-up rags separately from other laundry.

## WHAT ABOUT RENOVATING MY HOME'S EXTERIOR?

- When removing exterior paint, seal windows and vents so dust cannot get inside the house.
- Wipe shoes on damp floor mat. Remove shoes before entering the house.
- Do not walk around clean areas of the house in work clothes.
- To remove paint chips and dust from around the outside of the house, hose off porches, sidewalks, driveways and the sides of buildings. Scrub with a stiff brush or broom and soapy water; then rinse as clean as possible. Pick up and dispose of paint chips.

## SCREENING FOR LEAD POISONING

Have family members, particularly children 6 months through 6 years of age, tested for lead poisoning by a physician or other health care provider when renovation of an older home is complete.

A child may have lead poisoning yet not have any symptoms. Or a child may have symptoms like those of a cold or the flu. The only way to detect lead poisoning early is to bring your child to your local clinic, public health clinic or physician to have a simple blood test.

For additional information on how to safely remove old paint and clean up lead debris, paint chips and dust, or for information on lead poisoning, call the Illinois Department of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 217-782-0403 or 800-545-2200 or TTY 800-547-0466.

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OUT**

**ALL CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS THROUGH 6 YEARS  
SHOULD BE ASSESSED FOR LEAD POISONING EVERY YEAR.**

For further information, contact the Illinois Department of Public Health's  
**Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.**

800-545-2200  
217-782-0403  
TTY 800-547-0466

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**Illinois Department of  
Public Health**

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