



# Safer Home Renovations and Repairs

## Did you know?

*Construction dust created during home renovation can be harmful.*

*Take steps to reduce dust.*

## Action Plan

Follow these steps to protect your family.

- ☐ Federal law requires that a contractor who will disturb a painted surface in a home, childcare center or school built before 1978 must be certified and follow practices to ensure that areas are not contaminated with lead.
- ☐ If you will be doing your own renovations in a home that contains lead paint, call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323) to find out how to avoid contaminating your home.
- ☐ Children and pregnant people should not be in lead-containing homes during renovation. They should return only when the work is done, and the home has been tested and certified lead-free.
- ☐ A certified asbestos contractor should be hired to remove asbestos.
- ☐ **For other renovations: contain the work:** Keep the work area separate from the living space. Use plastic sheeting to cover

[more](#) →



floors and furniture; cover doorways to the work area and close vents.

- ❑ **Work “wet” to reduce dust:** Mist the surface before removing old paint.
- ❑ **Clean as you go:** Wet clean with a wet mop or wet cloth daily at the end of the job, including cleaning plastic sheeting.
  - Once cleaned, sheeting should be folded inward, then bagged. It is not considered “hazardous waste” so it can go in normal garbage.
  - Do not dry sweep.

**Keep children and pregnant people out of the work area.**

## Did You Know?

**Be lead safe!** Lead paint was used widely in homes built before 1978 (or before 1960 in NYC) and can still be in the underlayers of paint. Unless environmental testing shows otherwise, assume paint in older homes contains lead and use lead-safe work practices. To learn more, visit [health.ny.gov](https://health.ny.gov) and search “Lead-Safe Renovation, Repair, and Painting.”

**Asbestos:** Asbestos may still be found in many building materials, regardless of the age. Examples are pipe insulation, roofing tiles and shingles, and patching compounds. The only way to confirm that the material does not contain asbestos is to have it tested. To learn more, visit [health.ny.gov](https://health.ny.gov) and search “asbestos.”

## Resources

For information on keeping the air quality safe during renovations, visit [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov) and search “indoor air quality.”

To find an US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified contractor, visit:

- [epa.gov/lead](https://www.epa.gov/lead) (click on “Find a lead-safe certified firm”)
- [epa.gov/asbestos](https://www.epa.gov/asbestos) (click on “Hire an asbestos professional”)

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has a guide on selecting healthier materials for your home (everyday use, renovations, and home building): [ewg.org/healthyhomeguide](https://www.ewg.org/healthyhomeguide)

For more tips for safer home renovations, visit:  
[nyscheck.org/homerepairs](https://nyscheck.org/homerepairs)



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Version: January 2024

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