

TIPS FOR A LEAD-SAFE HOME

Report lead-based paint hazards

If you see paint chips or paint that is cracking, peeling or rubbing on another surface, notify your landlord. Clean up paint chips immediately, using the following tips:

Work lead-safe

- Get information on working lead-safe from the OHA Lead-Based Paint Program.

Clean up lead paint dust

- Avoid dry sweeping/wiping.
- Regularly clean with a mop or damp cloth or sponge in areas where lead dust is most common (window sills and floors).
- Use all-purpose household cleaner and separate buckets for washing and rinsing. Change rinse water often.
- Use one set of mops, sponges or cloths only for lead dust clean-up.

Watch for other lead hazards

- **Household items:** Pottery, cookware and toys may contain lead.
- **Occupations:** Lead can be brought into the home from the workplace (painters, remodelers, radiator repair, etc.).
- **Hobbies:** These include working with stained glass solder, fishing sinkers, bullets, etc.

Keep children lead-safe

- If your children play in the dirt, especially next to the home or building, make sure the dirt is lead-safe. Have children play on grass if possible.
- Clean or remove shoes before entering the home or apartment to avoid tracking in soil that may contain lead.

- Regularly wash children's hands, toys, pacifiers and anything they may put in their mouths.
- Feed your children foods high in iron and calcium, such as milk, fortified cereals, dark green vegetables and beans.
- If the water has not been used for two hours, let the water run for a minute before using it. Use only cold tap water for cooking, drinking or preparing baby formula.
- Children can be hurt by lead and may not look or act sick. If your children are at risk, talk to your health care provider about a blood lead test.

Please contact us for more information about lead renovation, working lead-safe and protecting your family from lead.

Lead-Based Paint and Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
800 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 640
Portland, OR 97232
971-673-0440 • 1-877-290-6767
www.healthoregon.org/lead

Lead Line: 1-800-368-5060
Portland Metro: 503-988-4000

This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this document in another format or language, contact the Lead-Based Paint Program at 971-673-0440 or by email at lead.program@state.or.us.

OHA 8195

Lead Awareness for Tenants



Protect your family from lead poisoning

Lead-Based Paint and
Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program

Oregon
Health
Authority

LEAD-BASED PAINT

Exposure to lead dust from household paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning. Homes and buildings that were built before 1978 could contain lead-based paint.

Paint that is chipping, peeling, cracking or rubbing on another surface may create lead dust. Remodeling, renovation, painting and routine maintenance can create large amounts of lead paint dust and debris.

Lead is especially dangerous to children. Even very small amounts of lead can be harmful. Children can be harmed by lead and may not look or act sick. The effects of lead poisoning can be permanent. In children, lead can cause:

- Reduced IQ;
- Learning disabilities;
- Behavioral problems; and
- Liver and kidney damage.

Lead is also harmful to adults and can cause high blood pressure, reproductive problems, organ damage and other adverse health effects. Pregnant women exposed to lead can pass the lead to their babies during pregnancy. Lead can also cause babies to be born too small or too early.



YOUR LANDLORD'S LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

LEAD PAINT DISCLOSURE

If you live in housing built before 1978, your landlord must give you a booklet from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about lead-based paint called *Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home*. You must also sign the disclosure form.



Before you sign the lease, your landlord must also inform you about any known lead-based paint in the space you are renting. Your landlord is not required to do any testing to find lead-based paint.

RENOVATION, REPAIR and PAINTING (RRP) RULE

Safe renovation of old housing and buildings is the best way to protect Oregon children from lead poisoning. Unsafe home renovations and repairs contribute to nearly half of Oregon's childhood lead poisonings.

A federal law, the RRP Rule, requires individuals and companies to be trained and certified for lead-based paint renovation and maintenance. The rule applies to homes and child-occupied facilities built before 1978. If the work disturbs more than a certain area of paint, the worker must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.

PRE-RENOVATION NOTICE

If you rent housing built before 1978, you must be given notice and provided a copy of the EPA *Renovate Right* booklet before a remodeling, paint or repair project begins. This requirement also applies to common areas such as hallways and lobbies.



LEAD-SAFE HOUSING RULE

This rule applies to homes built prior to 1978 that receive federal housing assistance. Certain actions are required to address lead hazards and work practice standards may differ from the RRP Rule.

OREGON RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD and TENANT ACT

Under Oregon law, landlords are required to keep their rental units in good condition (ORS 90.320). If you have reported lead-based paint hazards and your landlord is not making the needed repairs, there are some steps you can take. Contact your city building code office to see if they have a rental housing inspection program. See the Community Alliance of Tenants at www.oregoncat.org for help getting your landlord to make repairs. Tenants that are in situations that pose a serious threat to their health or safety should seek and obtain legal advice about their rights. See the Oregon Law Help at www.OregonLawHelp.org.