

Lead Paint

Checklist

- ___ If your house or apartment building was built before 1980, consider having the paint tested for lead content.
- ___ If you suspect exposure, have all family members tested at once for lead poisoning.
- ___ If it is determined that you have lead-based paint, consider having the painted items, such as doors and windows, replaced. If the removal may create lead dust, consider calling in a professional contractor to do the removal.
- ___ Alternatively, cover the lead-based paint with a sealant or gypsum wallboard. Note, however, that painting over lead-based paint with non-lead paint is only a temporary solution, since the lead-based paint may still separate from the surface, or the new paint may partially mix with the lead-based paint and lead dust will be released when the new paint deteriorates.
- ___ Consider removing the lead-based paint. Professional removal is advised, since scraping, sanding, and chemical removal all give rise to lead dust, which must be properly contained.
- ___ Keep all children, pregnant women, and adults with high blood pressure out of the work area until the removal is completed.
- ___ Remove all food and eating utensils from the work area.
- ___ Make sure that the contractor removes all furniture, carpets, and window coverings from the work area and seals it off from the rest of the house.
- ___ Whenever working around lead-based paint, wear a respirator designed to protect against inhalation of lead dust.
- ___ Do not eat or drink in the work area.
- ___ Clean up all debris with a special vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter.
- ___ Wet-clean the entire area before re-entry.
- ___ Dispose of clothing worn while removing lead-based paint.
- ___ Dispose of all lead-based paint waste according to state and local regulations.

— If you or a family member has suffered lead poisoning, seek legal counsel to determine whether you may have a cause of action against the responsible party. If you do, you may be able to recover the damages you suffered as a result of your exposure.