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What To Do If You Suspect Lead Paint

A Homeowner's Guide to Safe and Legal Repainting in Older and Historic Homes

Steps to Identifying and Dealing with Lead Paint

Step 1: Is Your Home At Risk?

Your home may have lead-based paint if:

- It was built before 1978 (especially pre-1960)
- You are located in a historic neighborhood

If the paint is chipping, cracking, or appears heavily layered, there may be lead-based paint in the original layers.

Step 2: Don't Guess–Test

- Start with an EPA-approved lead test kit (available at most hardware stores)
- For reliable results, hire a certified lead inspector or risk assessor. A quick Google search can guide to you a local inspector.

Step 3: Stop Work Until You Know

- Do not scrape, sand, or demolish any painted surfaces. Disturbing lead-based paint creates toxic, airborne dust–dangerous and illegal without proper precautions.

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Step 4: Hire the Right Type of Contractor

Only contractors certified under the EPA's RRP Rule can legally handle lead paint. They are required to:

- Use containment barriers
- Run HEPA vacuums and filtration systems
- Follow lead-safe cleanup and disposal
- Provide written documentation

Learn more at epa.gov/lead

Step 5: What Roe Painting Can (and Can't) Do

We are not certified to disturb lead paint and believe that's the responsible choice. Here's what we do instead:

- Help homeowners recognize when lead paint may be present
- Provide up-to-date information on lead-safe practices
- Guide you to the proper resources for finding the right contractor
- Provide high-quality painting services once the lead-based paint has been addressed by a certified professional.

We're here to help you get the job done right.

Questions to Ask a Contractor Dealing with Lead Paint

Before you hire someone that says they can handle lead paint, ask these crucial questions that will guarantee that your property, family, and neighbors will be safe.

- **Are you certified under the EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule? Federal law requires that a "certified renovator" be assigned to each job, and that all involved individuals are trained in the use of lead-safe work practices.**
- **How do you contain lead dust during removal or prep?**
- **What protective gear and cleanup tools do you use?**
- **Will you provide documentation confirming lead-safe practices?**
- **Have you handled lead paint in homes like mine before?**