

Staying Safe Before Lead Abatement Begins

When a child has an elevated blood lead level, the lead hazards must be identified and actions taken to reduce or eliminate the hazard. This is called abatement. In Connecticut, this work must begin within 45 days of a lead abatement order being issued by a local health department. It is usually safe to stay in your home while waiting for this abatement work to begin, but here are some tips to reduce risk.

How to protect children

- Wash hands often, especially after children have been playing on the floor.
- Avoid areas that have chipping or peeling paint.
- Move furniture to block affected windows from reach, putting a barrier between the child and the window surfaces.
- If you have two entryways, use the one that has the least amount of chipping and peeling paint.

Tips for landlords

- Don't sand or scrape paint.
- Place a large area rug over porches with chipping or peeling paint.
- Tape up or cover defective windows or other areas.
- Offer cleaning supplies to your tenants.
- Cover bare soil with mulch/pebbles.
- Hire a licensed lead abatement contractor to help reduce lead hazards.

Note: The local health department will contact other tenants in the building to see if children under 6 are in the home.

What is lead?

Lead is a heavy metal and was used in old paint. As old paint breaks down, it can create chipping and peeling paint and lead dust. When lead paint or dust is ingested, a child can become lead poisoned.

Tips for tenants

Clean affected areas:

- Use wet wipes, wet paper towels or wet rags that can be thrown away. All purpose cleaning wipes work well.

Avoid anything that will move lead dust around:

- Don't clean with dusters, brooms, or vacuums.
- Avoid the use of fans or air conditioners in affected areas.

Don't bring lead inside:

- If there is bare soil around the property, take shoes off at the door, do not let children play near the shoes, clean toys that have been outside, increase handwashing after playing outside and before eating/bed, and do not let your pets dig in the bare soil.

Questions?

Contact your local health department, or visit www.ct.gov/dph/preventlead

