

SAND BLASTING:

USAGE: Use only for exterior paint in industrial applications.

ADVANTAGES: Effective and done in short time.

DISADVANTAGES: Should only be done by a professional. Can damage siding. Hard to contain dust and debris.

3. Methods Not Recommended

HEAT GUNS:

USAGE: Use heat gun or infrared lamp to loosen or soften paint.

ADVANTAGES: Easy clean-up and produces little dust.

DISADVANTAGES: Fire hazard. Should only be done by a professional. Hard to remove all paint. Labour-intensive. May produce toxic fumes.

SANDING:

USAGE: Use power grinders, sanders, etc. to remove paint.

ADVANTAGES: No special training and inexpensive.

DISADVANTAGES: Creates toxic dust. Not recommended for small confined spaces. Can damage woodwork.

TORCHES:

USAGE: Use gas-fired torch to loosen or soften paint.

ADVANTAGES: Not much dust and easy to clean up.

DISADVANTAGES: Fire hazard. Should only be done by a professional. Hard to remove all paint. Labour-intensive. May generate toxic fumes.



Information obtained from Alberta Health, 1992; and
Minnesota Department of Health

Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health Services

Recommended Guidelines for Removal of Lead- Based Paints



Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health Services

**For more information, please contact your nearest
Environmental Public Health Services office.**

Edmonton Main Office	(780) 413-7928
Capital Health Centre - South Tower	(780) 735-1400
Strathcona	(780) 467-5571
Spruce Grove	(780) 962-7509
Leduc	(780) 980-4644
St. Albert	(780) 459-6671

EPHB-07-004
Created: 1999
Revised: Mar/07
Updated: Jul/08

 **Capital Health**
EDMONTON AREA

Prior to 1956 in Canada, paint contained up to 20% lead. Walls painted prior to 1950 should be assumed to contain lead-based paint. Testing should be conducted for paint manufactured between 1950 to 1978. All paint after 1978 is assumed to be safe. Peeling or chipped lead-based paint, and dust generated during renovation is a major source of lead poisoning, especially for children under the age of six. Proper precaution must therefore be taken to safely remove the lead-based paint.

PRECAUTIONS IN THE REMOVAL OF LEAD-BASED PAINT

1. Keep children, pregnant women, and adults with high blood pressure out of the work area.
2. Remove all food and eating utensils from the work area.
3. Wear a respirator or, at the very minimum, a mask which is able to filter fine dust. Also wear protective coveralls, gloves and goggles. Dispose of these items with the other lead contaminated materials.
4. Do not eat, drink or smoke in the work area. Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.
5. Remove work clothes before eating and after cleaning up the work area. Never shake out clothes. Do not wear work clothing outside the work area. Do not wash the work clothes with other clothes. Shower and wash hair as soon as possible.
6. Seal off all air-ducts and vents.
7. Work areas should be well ventilated. Open windows to let in fresh air and use an exhaust fan to pull contaminants to the outside.

8. Work in one room at a time. Work areas should be completely sealed off from other rooms in the house with plastic.
9. Contain the dust and paint chips using plastic draping or tarp.
10. Bag and dispose the waste.

DUST REMOVAL METHODS

Remove dust by wet mopping all of the surfaces in the work area, using a tri-sodium phosphate cleaning solution. The solution helps pick up the lead and is available in hardware stores.

Follow up the wet mopping with a final rinse of clean water on all surfaces. Be sure to wear rubber gloves when using tri-sodium phosphate. Dust removal must be done at least daily to be useful.

Clean up dust and debris with a HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter vacuum and wet mop the floor after vacuuming. Central vacuum systems that vent into basement or garage may still pose a problem. Use of some water extraction units may be acceptable.

COMMON METHODS FOR THE REMOVAL OF LEAD-BASED PAINTS

1. Recommended Methods

ENCAPSULATION (Covering):

USAGE: Use wallboard, gyproc, or other sturdy material to cover walls.

ADVANTAGE: Safe and little dust. Least exposure to lead paint.

DISADVANTAGE: Source of lead not removed. Only intact paint should be covered. Peeling lead-based paint must be removed.

REPLACEMENT:

USAGE: Replace lead painted windows and windowsills, doors and door jambs, and baseboards.

ADVANTAGE: Removes lead source and may improve energy efficiency.

DISADVANTAGE: May be expensive and requires skilled workers and special tools.

SCRAPING:

USAGE: Use scraper or wire brush to remove paint. Light water misting is needed to control dust.

ADVANTAGE: Reduces the amount of toxic fumes and dust. Inexpensive.

DISADVANTAGE: Produces a large amount of paint chips. Labour-intensive and may damage woodwork. Hard to remove all paint.

2. Methods To Be Used With Caution

CHEMICAL REMOVAL:

USAGE: Use liquid paint strippers.

ADVANTAGES: Effective in removing paint without producing dust.

DISADVANTAGES: Chemicals can be toxic and should only be done by a professional.

PAINTING OVER:

USAGE: Paint over peeling or chipping paint.

ADVANTAGES: Inexpensive.

DISADVANTAGES: Does not remove the hazard. Paint underneath may continue to loosen. Dust will be released when the new paint begins to deteriorate.