

What is required if I am sanding or grinding a lead-painted surface?

- Sanding or grinding is only allowable when used in conjunction with a HEPA vacuum system.
- If sanding or grinding, the following must be posted and clearly visible to adjacent properties on a sign not less than 24 square inches, in large, boldface capital letters no less than one-half inch in size:

LEAD WORK IN PROGRESS

PUBLIC ACCESS TO WORK AREA PROHIBITED.

**POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER
82, ARTICLE VII OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE,
ORDINANCE 20,345 MCS.**

Where can I find additional information on lead contamination or on the dangers of lead contamination in my home?

There are numerous sources of information on how to best address the presence of lead in homes and educational materials about the dangers of lead contamination. Below are several useful websites where you can learn about lead:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/lead) has many publications available as well as a list of Lead-Safe certified contractors.
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (www.deq.louisiana.gov) has information on how to safely work with lead-based paints and how to safely dispose of the debris.
- For information on worker safety and standards for working with lead-based paint, visit the Occupational Safety and Health Administration at www.osha.gov.
- For information regarding interior work practices or for information related to childhood lead poisoning, please contact the City's Health Department at 504-658-2565.
- Information on becoming a Louisiana licensed Lead Paint Abatement and Removal Contractor, see the Licensing Board's website at www.lslbc.louisiana.gov.
- To obtain copies of forms or documents from the Department of Safety and Permits, visit www.nola.gov/permits.
- To report unsafe exterior work practices, please contact us at 504-658-7130.

This brochure is intended to generally outline the City's requirements for working with lead based paint. Other requirements may apply depending on the location and complexity of your project. For more information, please call the Department of Safety & Permits at **(504) 658-7100**.

City of New Orleans
Department of
Safety & Permits

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Contact Us:
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(504) 658-7100

Guidelines for:

Working with Lead Based Paint



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
DEPARTMENT OF
SAFETY & PERMITS

REV. 12/12

What regulations apply to working with lead-based paint?

In 2001, the City adopted Ordinance 20,345 MCS, which established standards for working with lead-based paint in New Orleans. This ordinance governs all activities which disturb or remove lead-based paint in and on all buildings and steel structures constructed prior to December 31, 1978. The regulations for working with lead-based paint are located in Chapter 82 of the City Code, and are summarized in this brochure as a tool for property owners and contractors.

These regulations have been put in place to protect the public, especially children, from the harmful effects of lead contamination.

What are the requirements for working with lead-based paints?

The City Code requires you to notify the Department of Safety and Permits, in writing, prior to beginning any work that could disturb lead-based paint. If you are not sure if there is lead-based paint present on a structure, the Code provides that **all structures built prior to December 31, 1978** are presumed to contain lead-based paints. Before beginning work, you must:

- File a “Lead-Based Paint Removal Form” with Safety and Permits.
- Notify all tenants of the structure that work with lead-based paint will be occurring.
- If the work to be performed is a complete lead abatement, this must be performed by a State-licensed “Lead-Based Paint Abatement and Removal” contractor.

Where can I find the “Lead-Based Paint Removal Form”?

Forms are available on the Department’s website and in person. You can submit the forms to the Department either in person or via fax. If submitted by fax, it is your responsibility to verify that the form has been received and recorded by Safety and Permits.

What are the notification requirements?

Chapter 82, Article VIII of the City Code requires notification to tenants/occupants of the structure where work will occur. The required notification includes:

- A sign, letter or memorandum to all tenants, including the following language: “Work is scheduled to be performed beginning [date] on this property that may disturb or remove lead-based paint. The persons performing this work are required to follow federal, state, and local laws regulating work with lead-based paint. You may obtain information regarding these laws, or report any suspected violation of these laws by calling the Department of Safety & Permits at 658-7100.”
- All tenants/occupancy must be provided with a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s pamphlet *Protect your Family from Lead in your Home*. This may be obtained online at www.epa.gov/lead or by calling 1-800-424-LEAD(5323).
- All notification **must** be completed at least three (3) days before work is scheduled to begin.

Is a City permit required for painting?

The City’s amendments to the International Building Code specifically provide that painting is exempt from City permitting requirements. However, when painting will include disturbing lead-based paint, you or your contractor are required to provide written notice to the Department of Safety and Permits and outline what protective measures will be in place to prevent lead contamination to the soil or adjacent properties.

If you are located within a local historic district, under the jurisdiction of the Vieux Carré Commission or Historic District Landmarks Commission, permits or additional approvals may be required. You must consult these agencies prior to beginning any work in a historic district.

What are the approved methods for working with lead-based paint?

Approved methods and tools for paint disturbance and/or removal:

- When removing exterior paint from a structure by sanding, grinding, sandblasting, hydro-blasting, or high-pressure wash, a proper containment barrier shall be provided around all work areas.
- If sanding, grinding, or abrasive-blasting, an approved HEPA vacuum system may be used instead of providing containment barriers.
- Heat guns (or other devices for heat removal) must generate a temperature equal to or greater than 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit. Removal of exterior paint by propane or acetylene burning is prohibited.
- Manual scraping via hand tools that predominantly create paint chips rather than dust is permitted (it is recommended that the surface be kept wet).
- Exterior paint may be removed chemically with an approved paint stripper, used in compliance with CPSC, OSHA, LDEQ, and/or EPA guidelines.
- Regardless of the method of paint removal, ground cover shall be provided under all work areas. If hydro-blasting or high-pressure washing, porous ground cover designed to collect paint chips shall be used.

ANY PERSON PERFORMING WORK SHALL MAKE ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS TO PREVENT MIGRATION OF LEAD PAINT CONTAMINANTS BEYOND CONTAINMENT BARRIERS

What are the City’s recommendations on safe work practices?

Site Preparation:

1. Tape one layer of polyethylene plastic sheeting (at least 6mm thick) to the side of the building, with no gaps between the plastic and the building, to collect falling paint chips and debris. Extend the plastic sheeting 10’ beyond the perimeter of working surfaces, or to the adjacent structure if closer than 10’. Keep all windows within 20’ of working surfaces closed, including windows of adjacent structures.
2. Tape 2 layers of polyethylene plastic sheeting to the interior wall of a structure when working on windows from the outside, to prevent debris from entering the building. Extend the plastic sheeting 5’ beyond the perimeter of the window. All windows, other than where the work is occurring, should be kept closed. This includes windows in adjacent dwellings that are closer than 20’ of the work area.
3. Cover all areas that may become contaminated with paint debris, including soil and plants.

Surface Preparation:

1. If scraping paint, the surface must be kept wet. Use a spray bottle to keep the surface moist.
2. If you use a power sander, you **must** use a HEPA vacuum attachment.

Clean Up:

1. Clean the work area as you go by using a HEPA vacuum or wet-sweeping.
2. Dispose of lead-based paint debris and plastic sheeting in a double bag and place it in a secured container.
3. Remove contaminated debris from inside of a building with a HEPA vacuum. Then clean with a disposable moist cloth or mop and HEPA vacuum the area again.
4. Use a HEPA vacuum to clean work clothes and change clothes before getting into a vehicle.