**LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION**

The Housing Resources Commission Lead Hazard Mitigation Regulations also apply to residential rental units.

Landlords must take a three-hour Lead Hazard Awareness Class, correct any hazards, hire a licensed Lead Inspector or Technician to conduct an Independent Clearance Inspection, and obtain a Certificate of Conformance. Owners must maintain painted surfaces that may contain lead and promptly respond to tenant complaints or reports by immediately correcting damaged paint.

For information on Lead Hazard Mitigation Regulations and Certificates of Conformance, call the Housing Resources Commission at 401-222-5323 or visit www.HRC.ri.gov.

To search for a Certificate of Conformance, visit www.HRC.ri.gov.

**RESOURCES**

- **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT** 401-232-2800
- **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM** 401-232-5960
  - General information about lead and lead paint removal
  - List of licensed Lead Hazard Reduction Contractors and Lead Hazard Control Firms
  - List of Certified Environmental Lead Inspectors or Technicians

**WORKER PROTECTION**

- **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)** 401-528-6669
- **RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (RICOSH)** 401-751-2015
- **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OSHA CONSULTATION PROGRAM** 401-232-5960

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- **RHODE ISLAND HOUSING LEADSAFE HOMES PROGRAM** 401-450-1350
- **RESIDENTIAL LEAD ABATEMENT INCOME TAX CREDIT** 401-574-8829

**LEAD TRAINING COURSES**

Updated lead training course listings can be found by selecting Lead Professional Training at www.health.ri.gov/leadpoisoning

**HEALTHY HOMES AND ENVIRONMENT TEAM**

Healthy Homes and Environment Team www.health.ri.gov/leadpoisoning

**ARE YOU DISTURBING LEAD PAINT?**

State regulations dictate the way lead-based paint can be disturbed in homes in Rhode Island built before 1978. This brochure summarizes the most important requirements, including licensing for working with lead-based paint, lead-safe work practices, and interior and exterior removal methods.
IT’S THE LAW

Projects that disturb lead-based paint can create contaminated dust and endanger occupants. Anyone who disturbs 6 square feet of paint or more in one room or 20 square feet or more of exterior paint must be licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH).

HEALTH Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning Prevention (R23-24.6-RP) apply to lead hazard reduction and lead hazard control in all pre-1978 housing and child care facilities.

Spotted Removal Exemption

Training and licensure is not required for spotted removal, which includes:
- Disturbing fewer than 6 square feet of paint in interior room or common area
- Disturbing fewer than 20 square feet of exterior paint
- Door replacement or removal for off-site lead hazard reduction/lead hazard control
- Temporary lead hazard control measures

WHO CAN DO THE WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DIMENSIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>&gt; 6 square feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>&gt; 25 square feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>&gt; 6 square feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior</td>
<td>&gt; 25 square feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on particular violations, visit www.health.ri.gov/leadpoisoning

LEAD-SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- All lead hazard reduction and lead hazard control activities must be performed in accordance with HEALTH Regulations (R23-24.6-RP).
- Owners must make all reasonable efforts to ensure that occupants are not present during the work.
- Prior to starting any work, all furniture and other movable objects must be removed from the area or completely covered with plastic sheeting or other impermeable material.
- The floor and all openings between the work area and any unoccupied areas must be covered with plastic sheeting and sealed with duct tape. The area must be wet cleaned of all dust and debris after the work is complete.
- A clearance inspection must be conducted by a Certified Lead Inspector or Inspector Technician to determine that lead hazards have been corrected and permissible lead dust levels have been achieved.

LED-SAFE WORK PRACTICES

ALWAYS FOLLOW LEAD-SAFE WORK PRACTICES WHEN DISTURBING LEAD-BASED PAINT

INTERIOR REMOVAL OF LEAD-BASED PAINT

Authorized Removal Methods:
- Wet hand scraping with or without a heat gun, followed with light feather sanding
- Dry hand scraping with or without a heat gun, followed with light feather sanding
- Use of a non-flammable chemical stripper that does not contain methylene chloride

Prohibited Removal Methods:
- Heat guns operated at temperatures above 1100°F
- Open flame or torch burning
- Flammable or methylene chloride paint strippers
- Abrasive blasting or power sanding, except when performed by a licensed Lead Hazard Reduction Contractor

Post-Ablation Clean-Up and Clearance

After completing the work, repeatedly clean the entire work area by wet vacuuming or using a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum, followed by wet washing all surfaces with an all-purpose cleaner and rinsing with clean water.

Dry sweeping and dry vacuuming without a HEPA filter are prohibited.

EXTERIOR REMOVAL OF LEAD-BASED PAINT

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 24 requires that anyone conducting exterior removal of lead-based paint take the following steps:
- Notify any adults that live within 50 feet of the work site. Include the dates when the removal will occur and how the paint will be removed.
- Remove all toys, play equipment, and furnishings located less than 50 feet from the work site or cover them with an impermeable material such as plastic sheeting.
- Secure an impermeable material on the ground at the work site to prevent any paint chips, dust, or other debris from being deposited on the ground.
- Also use vertical containment when power washing to prevent paint chips, dust, or other debris from spreading beyond the ground surface. Properly contain, handle, and dispose of all liquid waste.
- Mist exterior surfaces with water prior to manual scraping.
- Attach power sanding or blasting equipment to a HEPA system that collects all dust and debris (the sanding disk must not be wider than the surface being sanded).

Prohibited:
- Dry scraping
- Heat guns operated at temperatures above 100°F
- Open flame or torch burning
- Flammable or methylene chloride paint strippers

Post-Ablation Clean-Up

At the end of each work day collect all visible debris. Spray all ground cover and other sheeting used for containment with a fine mist of water and collect the residue. Place collected paint chips, debris, and residue in single 6 mil or double 4 mil plastic bags (or other appropriate containers). Store waste and all ground sheets where they are inaccessible to the public.

At the end of the paint removal project place all paint chips, debris, and plastic sheets used for containment in single 6 mil or double 4 mil plastic bags. Securely seal and store all bags or containers and dispose of properly (homeowners may dispose of waste from paint removal work as part of their regular trash pick-up).