



# FACT SHEET

## How do I protect myself and my family from lead hazards? Personal Protection Equipment and Hygiene for Renovation and Remodeling Projects

If your home was built before 1978, and you plan to remove or break through painted surfaces, be aware that lead-based paint hazards (i.e. dust and chips) may be present. To protect yourself and others while removing paint, sanding, patching, scraping or tearing down walls; removing or replacing windows, baseboards, doors, plumbing fixtures, heating and ventilation duct work, or electrical systems, you should use the correct personal protection equipment (PPE) and hygiene. When purchasing PPE, please follow the guidelines listed in the table below:

Type of Protection	Where Available	Special Comments
Half-mask air-purifying respirator with HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filters  <b>Warning: ordinary dust masks and filters will not prevent the inhalation of lead dust.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory safety and supply catalogs and stores</li> <li>Paint and hardware stores</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The respirator should be NIOSH certified.</li> <li>The respirator should fit the face firmly.</li> <li><b>The filters for the respirator should be purple in color.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coveralls</li> <li>Gloves</li> <li>Goggles</li> <li>Hard Hats</li> <li>Shoe Covers</li> </ul> These PPE help to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prevent contamination of personal clothing;</li> <li>keep lead-contaminated dust off the skin; and</li> <li>prevent the movement of lead dust to other parts of the home.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory safety and supply catalogs and stores</li> <li>Paint and hardware stores</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work clothes and shoes should be changed before leaving the work area.</li> <li>Take work clothes from the work area only in a sealed, plastic bags or containers.</li> <li>Wash work clothes separately from other family laundry. Use shoe covers with non-skid soles.</li> <li>Do not use shoe covers if climbing stairs or scaffolding.</li> <li>Use chemical resistant protective clothing when using paint strippers.</li> </ul>

### \*\*OTHER HYGIENE TIPS\*\*

- Do not take off respirator until after you have removed your outer PPE.
- Do not eat, smoke, drink, or apply make-up in the work area.
- Wash your hands before eating, smoking, or drinking or leaving the work area.
- Vacuum dust from clothing using a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.
- Change your clothes and shoes before leaving the work site.
- Shower and wash hair right after finishing work to reduce lead exposure.

**\*\*If you decide to hire a contractor (i.e. remodelers, home repair services, painters, etc.), you can protect yourself, your family, and your property by ensuring that he/she follows the OSHA rule 29 CFR 1926.62, "Interim Final Rules for Lead in Construction Standard".\*\***

*To obtain the EPA booklet "Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home", for additional information, please call the Lead Program of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division at (504) 765-2554, or write to us at LDEQ-AQCD Lead Program; P.O. Box 82135; Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135.*