

# What Homeowners and Renters Need to Know About Renovations and Lead

## April 2025

If your home was built before 1978, anyone who does work on your home must have a Lead-Safe Renovation, Repair, Painting and Maintenance (RRPM) license under Vermont law. This fact sheet can help you make sure the work done in your home is safe whether you own or rent your home.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact [ALRP@vermont.gov](mailto:ALRP@vermont.gov).

### What type of work falls under RRPM regulations?

The RRPM regulations require workers to follow certain lead safe work practices to minimize the spread of lead paint chips and dust, which can cause lead poisoning. Learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning at [www.HealthVermont.gov/lead](http://www.HealthVermont.gov/lead).

The regulations apply to all housing and child care facilities built before 1978. Anyone that does work that may disturb painted surfaces in pre-1978 housing, including contractors, property owners and landlords, must have an RRPM license.

If your home was built before 1978, Lead-Safe RRPM licenses are required for contractors doing work that will disturb more than:

- 1 square foot per interior room
- For homeowners: 20 square feet per exterior side of the building
- For buildings with renters: 1 square foot per exterior side of the building

Under Vermont law, all paint, stains and other coatings in pre-1978 buildings are considered lead-based unless they are tested by a Vermont-licensed lead inspector and the property has been granted an exemption by the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program. Vermont does not accept results from hardware store lead test kits to verify if lead is present.

### What to ask, look for and how to report a concern

If someone is working on your home, follow these steps to make sure they are using lead-safe practices.

#### **Confirm that the worker and their company is Lead-Safe RRPM Licensed.**

- Ask for a copy of both the RRPM Supervisor and RRPM Firm licenses.
- Look up their licenses to make sure they are current at [tinyURL.com/RRPM-lookup](http://tinyURL.com/RRPM-lookup).



**HealthVermont.gov/RRPM**  
**802-863-7220**



You or your landlord should specify that contractors have the correct Lead-Safe RRPM Firm licenses and will use lead-safe work practices in the project work contract.

## **Make sure you receive RRPM educational materials from the contractor before the work begins.**

Contractors are required to give you a copy of the following materials within 60 days before work starts:

- Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right pamphlet
- What Homeowners, Renters and Child Care Providers Need to Know About Vermont's Renovation, Repair, Painting and Maintenance (RRPM) Regulations fact sheet

## **Observe the work activities to make sure the workers are following lead-safe work practices.**

Workers are required to use lead-safe work practices to make sure lead dust and debris are contained. Some work practices generate so much lead dust that they are not allowed under federal and state regulations. Workers must:

- Use plastic sheets to contain work areas.
- Put up warning signs that alert others to potential lead hazards.
- Mist all surfaces before disturbing them to reduce the spread of dust (also called working wet).
- Never use power tools without a permit and dust control attachments.
- Clean up and close off the work area daily.
- Clean up all work areas before taking down the plastic sheets when work is complete.

## **Call the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program if you see something that does not seem right.**

If you are concerned that contractors are not using lead-safe work practices in your home, contact the worker or their company to ask them to correct the issue(s). If you still have concerns, the company will not cooperate or if you see workers using prohibited work practices, fill out this online form to alert our program as soon as possible:

[tinyURL.com/submit-lead-tip](https://tinyURL.com/submit-lead-tip).