

HOW TO REMOVE PAINT

Wet sanding

This is the best option to reduce dust.

Safety Measures: Clean up any dust, paint flakes, rubbish

Scraping

Safety Measures: Collect any rubbish, paint flakes and clean up the area.

Abrasive blasting

Check any WorkSafe NZ or regional council requirements.

Safety Measures: DON'T use if building or fence was built or painted before 1970 or for boats. There is a lot of lead in these paints and dust is hard to control

Blasting with heat

An electric paint stripper, hot air blower, or blow torch will heat the paint and blister it, so that it can be scraped off.

Note that the use of a blow torch will produce lead fumes. Beware also of fire risk.

Safety Measures: Wear a toxic dust respirator if using a hot air blower, blow torch, or electric paint stripper. Have a fire extinguisher or water handy in case of fire. If using a blow torch indoors, make sure that windows are open.

Chemicals

Usually used for small surfaces such as window frames.

Safety Measures: Wear safety glasses, overalls, and gloves to avoid contact with the skin. When inside keep the windows open for fresh air. Follow any instructions on the label.

Water-blasting

For outside surfaces.

Safety Measures: Use water to move paint flakes and rubbish together so it can be taken away safely. Stop paint flakes going onto other properties.

Dry sanding by hand or machine

Sanding machines, such as orbital sanders, disc grinder sanders, pistol grip disc sanders and belt sanders, should be fitted with vacuums where possible and the safety measures should be strictly adhered to.

Safety Measures: If you use any type of machine, wear a toxic dust respirator. This is important even when using a belt sander with an extraction bag (they're only partially effective). Cover ground/carpets with a dust sheet. Keep children and pets away from work area.

See the full Ministry of Health guidelines at www.health.govt.nz/publication/guidelines-management-lead-based-paint

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

Capital, Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa

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REMOVING LEAD-BASED PAINT



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You or your family can get sick with lead poisoning, if you are not careful when removing lead-based paint from the inside or outside of a building.

Buildings painted before 1980 can have paint with lead in it. People who might get sick from lead in the paint are:



The person removing it (from dust, paint chips or fumes)



Young children who lick or swallow paint chips



Young children who play in or eat paint-polluted dirt



Unborn children in pregnant women who come into contact with lead-polluted dust

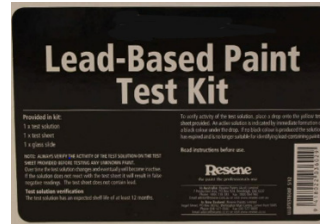


A pet eating paint-polluted dirt



TESTING FOR LEAD

You can't see if paint has lead in it by looking at it. To see if the house you are working on has lead-based paint you can do a test using a lead-based paint kit. These can be bought from a hardware or paint store.



PROTECT YOURSELF

When removing lead-based paint:

- Wear a good quality, good fit, special dust breathing mask
- Wear a hat or cover your hair to prevent dust/paint chips in your hair
- Wear specific clothing for work or
- Wear disposable overalls (single use)
- Wash and dry your face and hands before eating or smoking
- DO NOT smoke while removing paint

Before leaving worksite:

- Change out of overalls/clothes/shoes
- Wash hands and face

When you get home:

- Wash work clothing on their own
- Shower to remove dust

SAFETY POINTS FOR REMOVING LEAD-BASED PAINT



Close windows and doors



Cover carpets with drop-sheets – to catch paint chips/flakes and dust



Wipe surfaces with a wet cloth to clean dust



Use a commercial vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA (high efficiency dust filter)



Wrap up and put paint rubbish in the bin



Check with the local council for large amounts of paint rubbish



DO NOT burn paint rubbish

