

Replacing Doors, Windows and Trim

Guidelines

Worried about lead in your home? If you are living in an older structure you should be informed. Lead can be a serious danger. Through this fact sheet, developed for property owners, renters, and contractors, learn how to safely remove doors, windows, and trim covered with lead-based paint.

The Dangers of Lead

Lead poisoning is a concern for both children and adults. It can cause:

- Permanent problems with health, learning, and behavior in young children
- High blood pressure, kidney damage, and fertility problems in adults

You can be exposed to lead any time you breathe lead dust, fumes, or swallow anything that contains lead.

About 75% of homes built before 1978 contain some lead-based paint. The older the home the more likely it is to contain lead-based paint. You should assume that any home built before 1978 contains some lead. To be sure make sure to test your home.

You can protect yourself from lead by following the appropriate remodeling safety procedures.

Before You Begin

Use the checklist below to prepare for a safe remodeling experience.

- Identify the source in your home that caused the paint to chip or peel.
- Be sure to fix these problems before you begin to remove, cover, or replace the door, window, or trim.
- Remove everything from the work area, including furniture, so these items do not get covered with lead dust.

- Any items, such as bookcases or large furniture, that can't be taken out of the room should be covered with one mil polyethylene plastic sheeting and sealed. You can find one mil plastic sheeting at most hardware stores. The poly will help protect the items from being covered in lead dust.
- Turn off all the heating, air conditioning, and ventilation systems in the home. If the work is being conducted in the winter use caution when you turn off the heating so the water pipes don't freeze.
- Close, cover, and seal the registers to prevent lead dust from settling in the ducts.
- Turn off any window air conditioning units and fans in the work area.
- Cover and seal the window units with plastic sheeting. Remember to uncover the window units when the job is completed.
- Close, cover, and seal any unused doorways in the work area with a layer of plastic sheeting.
- Cover the doorways you will be using by hanging a layer of plastic sheeting over the doorway. Seal this plastic sheeting to the doorway with duct tape. Then use a utility knife to cut a six-inch foot vertical slit in the middle of the plastic sheeting piece to provide access to the work area.
- Attach a second piece of plastic sheeting to the top of the doorway with duct tape to act as a flap. This will limit the airflow between the work area and the rest of the house.

On the Job

Removing Doors

This procedure can be used on interior and exterior doors. The door assembly includes the jambs, stop, threshold, and trim.

1. Remove the hinge pins.
2. Carefully remove the door from the frame.
3. Wrap and seal the door in six-mil poly to prepare for disposal.



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Removing Windows

The window assembly includes the sash, jamb, stops, sill and well.

1. Wet mist the surface with water to keep down the dust.
2. Cut all painted joints to avoid chipping the paint.
3. Remove all the parts necessary to remove the sash.
4. Remove the window sash.
5. Replace the sash with a jamb liner and a new sash.
6. Cover the blind stop and window well with aluminum coil stock. You can buy aluminum coil stock at a building supply store.

Removing Trim and Frames

This procedure can be used to remove baseboards, or interior or exterior trim pieces around doors and windows.

1. Mist or dampen the painted surface with water.
2. Cut the painted joints with a sharp knife so that you do not break intact painted surfaces around the trim or frames.
3. Remove the painted trim or frame from the surface. Sometimes you may want or need to remove the entire frame.

4. Wet mist the area with water.
5. Carefully remove the trim and frame, to minimize the amount of lead dust created.

IMPORTANT: Be sure to turn off the electricity at the fuse box before you mist a surface with an outlet. Put tape over the outlet to keep water out of the outlet.

Clean-up

Once the door, window or trim is removed, follow the cleaning procedures in the ***“Clean-up and Disposal of Lead-Contaminated Waste”*** fact sheet.

How Do I Get More Information?

For more information about lead please contact the Lead Program at the Minnesota Department of Health. You can contact us by calling 651-201-4620, visiting our Web site at www.health.state.mn.us/lead, or write us at the address listed on the front of this fact sheet.

Lead is a risk for both you and your family. Be informed. Be safe.

This handout was developed as a summary of the MDH lead regulations. It does not cover all situations or conditions and is not to be used as a substitute for the Minnesota Statutes and Rules. Additional federal, state and local regulations may apply.

If you require this document in another format, such as large print, Braille or cassette tape, call 651-201-4620 • 800-657-3908 • MDH TTY 651-201-5797