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5 Reasons Why You Need to Hire a Lead-Safe Renovation Contractor

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- www.mass.gov/dols or www.mass.gov/leadsafe

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
Department of Labor Standards
19 Staniford Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: 617-626-6960

To find a licensed contractor near you and to learn more about the Lead-safe Renovation Rule, visit:

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• Maintenance workers
• Plumbers
• Electricians
• Renovation and Remodeling contractors
• Painters

Disturbs more than threshold quantities of paint in
DLS’ Lead-Safe Renovation regulations (454 CMR
Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) has been delegated
dust may be produced. Exposure to lead dust has
Homes and other structures built before 1978
Prevent the Spread of Lead Dust
Prevent Lead Poisoning

1. You’ll protect your children’s health.

The Massachusetts Lead
Regulations applying to
renovation protect residents,
especially young children and
unborn children, from lead
poisoning. Lead harms a child’s
developing brain and nervous
system. It can cause permanent
learning, behavior, and medical problems.
For example, lead is associated with lowered IQ,
learning disabilities, and problems with attention,
memory, growth, and hearing.

2. You’ll protect your own health.

Lead can also cause many health problems in
adults. It can raise blood pressure (and the risk
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3. You’ll maintain the safety of
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Contractors who are licensed in lead safety by DLS
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Prevent Lead Poisoning

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If your own property built before 1978, Why you need to hire a lead-safe renovation contractor...

1. A contractor who has made the effort to become licensed by DLS has shown professional responsibility. A contractor who cares about your family’s safety is an asset to any job.

2. It’s the law.

A contractor who violates the lead regulations may be fined up to $5,000 for each violation. Before beginning work, your contractor must give you a pamphlet entitled Renovate Right.

What about the cost?

Lead regulations apply to anyone who is paid to do work that disturbs lead paint, lead-containing materials, or on homes, schools, or childcare facilities. If your contractor does not follow lead-safe work practices in carrying out work that disturbs lead paint, lead-containing materials, or on homes, schools, or childcare facilities. This group includes: Painters Renovation and Remodeling contractors Electricians Plumbers Maintenance workers Landlords

The Massachusetts Lead Regulations applying to renovation protect residents, especially young children and unborn children, from lead poisoning. Lead harms a child’s developing brain and nervous system. It can cause permanent learning, behavior, and medical problems. For example, lead is associated with lowered IQ, learning disabilities, and problems with attention, memory, growth, and hearing.

Lead can also cause many health problems in adults. It can raise blood pressure (and the risk of a heart attack or stroke). It can decrease brain function (making it more difficult to think, learn, and remember). Lead can also increase the risk of miscarriage, and cause impotence.

A contractor who works lead-safe may charge an asset to any job.

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Under 454 CMR 22.00, contractors performing RRP work must use lead-safe work practices, provide owners and tenants with lead hazard information and be licensed with DLS.

The Division of Occupational Safety (DOS) was renamed the Department of Labor Standards (DLS) in the Spring of 2011.

In Massachusetts, enforcement of EPA’s Renovation Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) has been delegated to the Department of Labor Standards (DLS).

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2. You'll protect your own health.
   - Lead can also cause many health problems in adults. It can raise blood pressure (and the risk of a heart attack or stroke). It can decrease brain function (making it more difficult to think, learn, and remember). Lead can also increase the risk of miscarriage, and cause impotence.

3. You'll maintain the safety of your home.
   - Contractors who are licensed in lead safety by DLS are trained to avoid creating lead hazards in your home. To become licensed, a contractor must take an eight-hour approved course. This course teaches the contractor how to:
     - Check the work to make sure that no lead dust remains;
     - Train others who work for the contractor.

**Prevent the Spread of Lead Dust**

1. **Lead dust remains**;
2. **Lead dust**;
3. **Clean up safely**;
4. **Follow the contractor's lead-safe work practices**;
5. **Set up a work space to prevent the spread of lead dust**;
6. **Minimize and contain dust while working**;
7. **Inspect the contractor's lead-safe work practices**;
8. **Train others who work for the contractor**;
9. **Set up a work space to prevent the spread of lead dust**;
10. **Minimize and contain dust while working**;
11. **Check the work to make sure that no lead dust remains**;
12. **Train others who work for the contractor**.

A contractor who has made the effort to become licensed by DLS has shown professional responsibility. A contractor who cares about your family's safety is an asset to any job.

**What about the cost?**

- A contractor who works lead-safe may charge a bit more for the job. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that its lead-safety regulations will add a relatively small amount to work costs.

**Who needs to follow lead-safe work practices?**

A Homeowner (which may include a tenant or owner...)

- A renovation contractor must use lead-safe work practices, provide owners and tenants with lead hazard information and be licensed with DLS.

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In partnership with the USEPA Region 1, the New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC), and Healthy Environments for Children Initiative, University of Connecticut Part of the Don’t Spread Lead campaign.