

Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule Now in Effect

Most Americans have long been aware of the dangers of lead, particularly in paints. Recognizing these dangers, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently finalized its [Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting \(RRP\) rule](#) to protect people from the lead generated by renovation activities like sanding, cutting and demolition. This work can create hazardous lead dust and chips by disturbing lead-based paint, which can be [harmful to adults and children](#).

The final rule, which became effective April 22, 2010, affects contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities and schools built before 1978.

For contractors, this rule means they must now be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. To become EPA certified, renovation contractors must submit an [application and fee payment to EPA](#). Once certified, the firm can advertise that it is certified by EPA under the RRP program, and will also be given rights to use EPA's "Lead-Safe Certified Firm" logo.

Associations and homeowners need to ensure that contractors engaged in this kind of work have undergone training and earned their certification. You can [search for certified companies](#) on the EPA website.

Read [EPA's Q&A](#) about the rule.