

Recommended Procedures for Removing Lead Paint

Lead is a highly toxic and accumulative poison and extreme care should be used when dealing with lead contaminated surfaces. Master Painters NZ Association strongly recommends anyone involved with redecoration of properties that were built prior to 1970 to attend a MPNZA Lead Based Training course. These courses are run regularly across NZ, the details of which are available from the contact below.

METHOD	RISK TO HEALTH	CONTROL
Wet Scraping – Preferred method	Dust may be produced during the scraping process if paint is not wet properly. Flakes of paint may be dispersed around the worksite.	Wear a half face respirator with P2 particulate filter during removal and clean up. Use plastic drop sheet which has the edges raised with wooden studs to collect water. Ensure proper collection of paint debris.
Chemical Strippers – Preferred method	Some strippers produce highly toxic vapours or can burn the skin. Even after chemical stripping has been done, a lead residue may still remain. Therefore, sanding after this method may still produce lead dust	Wear a half face respirator for organic vapours, safety glasses, overalls and chemically resistant gloves. Consult MSDS for further information. Ensure windows and doors are open.
Wet Hand Sanding – Preferred method	Dust may be produced if paint is not wet properly before sanding. Fine lead residue is left after water dries.	Wear a half face respirator with P2 particulate filter during removal and clean up. Use plastic drop sheet which has the edges raised with wooden studs to collect water. Wash down surfaces carefully
Low Temperature Heat Processes – Preferred method	Unlikely to produce lead fume unless the paint smokes from too much heat being applied. Dust may also be produced during the scraping process if the paint has started to reharden.	Where smoke is present, wear a half face respirator with P2 particulate filter. Keep nozzle temperature below 370EC (700EF) and do not hold too close to surface. Scrape softened paint directly into a disposable container before it rehardens to avoid having to sand or scrape to clean it up.
Dry power sanding with HEPA vacuum attachment sanding – Preferred method	Lead dust may be generated if the shroud of the sander extends beyond the surface being sanded or if the sander is not kept flat on the surface.	Wear a half face respirator with P2 particulate filter. This method should only be done by persons with appropriate training and experience. Not suitable for removing paint from detailed mouldings.

**All preparation and painting works should be in accordance with
AS/NZS 2311:2017 Guide to the Painting of Buildings**

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