



Permit & Development Center

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The City of Milwaukee requires property owners and/or contractors to obtain a Lead Hazard Reduction Permit prior to starting work that entails the disturbance of more than ten square feet of lead-based paint surface within residential or commercial properties **when a lead abatement order has been issued**. A permit is also required for lead abatement activities in federally funded rehabilitation projects.

It is common to find lead-based paint on older homes throughout Milwaukee. Lead is a metal that was commonly added to exterior and interior paint manufactured before 1978. Lead-based paint was applied extensively to windows and exteriors of buildings due to its increased resistance to weathering. The highest concentrations of lead-based paint are typically found in buildings built prior to 1950. However, the use of lead in paint was not banned until 1978.

Research indicates that dust and chip from lead-based paint in deteriorated condition (or created during repair/remodeling) is extremely hazardous to the brains and nervous systems of young children. Children who swallow or breathe lead dust may suffer serious developmental and learning problems later in life. Eating actual paint chips usually results in hospitalization, and could cause death.

It is the goal of the Milwaukee Health Department to minimize the risk of lead dust exposure to children and adults when rehabilitation work is being done. To that end the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services requires any individual or company performing lead abatement work to be licensed.

To obtain a lead hazard reduction project permit, a property owner or contractor must submit the following to the Milwaukee Health Department:

- City of Milwaukee Home Improvement Contractor License
- Current Lead Supervisor Certification as approved by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
- Current Lead Abatement Contractor Certification as approved by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
- An occupant protection plan
- [Permit Fee](#)

Notice must be given to the residents a minimum of 48 hours prior to starting work

Additional information may be requested by staff prior to approval and issuance of the permit.

Plans are thoroughly reviewed to ensure they comply with applicable health codes. Permits are limited to a two week time frame. On site Risk Assessors will monitor all phases of the project and work closely with the property owner, contractors, architects and consultants to ensure health code compliance.

Daily monitoring of projects will occur by the assigned Lead Risk Assessor. The Lead Risk Assessor has final authority at the job site, in order to assure safe working methods and quality workmanship. The Lead Risk Assessor will conduct a final dust wipe clearance test at completion of the project, to ensure that the project was conducted properly and there is no evidence of risk to the environment or public as a result of lead hazard reduction activities.