

## Why Does It Matter?

Homes and other structures built before 1978 often contain lead-based paint and coatings. If your contractor or employees do not follow lead-safe practices during renovation, repair or painting that disturbs lead paint, lead dust and/or paint chips are generated and can contaminate the property. Exposure to lead dust through ingestion and inhalation poses significant health risks for both children and adults.

## When Do the Regulations Apply?

Lead RRP regulations apply to anyone who is compensated to do work in homes, schools or childcare facilities built before 1978 when:

- Disturbing more than 6ft<sup>2</sup> of lead-painted or coated surfaces per interior room
- Disturbing more than 20ft<sup>2</sup> of lead-painted or coated surfaces on exteriors
- Replacing windows of any size
- Conducting partial demolitions of structures, walls or components

## Which Businesses Are Affected?

Potentially affected businesses include, but are not limited to:

- Building construction contractors
- Renovation and remodeling contractors
- Painting and wall covering contractors
- Window replacement contractors
- Electricians
- Plumbers
- HVAC contractors
- Maintenance workers
- Landlords
- Asbestos abatement contractors
- Mold removal contractors

## Pre-Renovation Requirements

Before beginning work, your contractor is required to distribute the EPA *Renovate Right* pamphlet and provide information about the project to the following persons:



- Owner AND occupants in target housing (built before 1978)
- Owner of the child-occupied facility (built before 1978) AND the operator or manager
- Parents/guardians of the children attending the child-occupied facility

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) enforces the RRP Rule under authorization from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### Contact Us

Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Program  
4244 International Parkway, Suite 104  
Atlanta, Georgia 30354  
[epd.georgia.gov/lead-based-paint](http://epd.georgia.gov/lead-based-paint)

Duty Officer 404-363-7026  
Mon-Fri 8am - 4:30pm

## Homeowners

# 6 Good Reasons Why You Need to Hire a Lead-Safe Contractor

## Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP)



If you own or manage residential property or child-occupied facilities built before 1978, you must hire a Georgia-Certified RRP Contractor to conduct RRP work



## Why Should You Hire an RRP-Certified Contractor?

### 1 You'll Protect Your Property Value

Allowing lead dust or paint chips to collect on your property is a violation of the Georgia Solid Waste "open dumping" rule. It can lead to a lead hazard with significant ongoing financial consequences, including clean-up costs and reduced property value.



### 2 You'll Protect Children's Health

The Georgia RRP Rules are intended to protect residents, renters, visitors and neighbors, especially young and unborn children, from lead poisoning. Lead harms a child's developing brain and nerve system causing:

- Reduced IQ
- Learning disabilities
- Behavior problems



### 3 You'll Protect Your Health

Lead poisoning can cause many health problems in adults such as:

- Raised blood pressure
- Increased risk of heart attack or stroke
- Decreased brain functions (making it more difficult to think, learn and remember)
- Reproductive issues

### 4 You'll Maintain Your Home's Safety

Contractors and employees certified for RRP activities are trained to avoid creating lead hazards in your home. To become certified the project supervisor must complete an 8-hour training course. The course teaches them how to:

- Test for the presence of lead
- Train others who work for the contractor or owner
- Set up a work space to prevent the spread of lead dust
- Clean up safely as the work is completed
- Check the work area to make sure no lead dust remains

### 5 A Certified Contractor Demonstrates Professional Responsibility

A contractor who has made the effort to become certified by the Georgia EPD cares about your family's and his or her employee's safety and is an asset to any job.



### 6 It's the Law!

The RRP Rules have been enforced since April 22, 2010. A contractor violating the Georgia RRP Rules is subject to actions up to and including monetary penalties.

## 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, and experience shows, that lead-safe work practices add a relatively small amount to the cost of most jobs. The additional cost covers some materials (such as plastic sheeting to prevent lead dust from spreading) and some extra time to set up, work and clean up safely.

Careful and responsible contractors already spend time and money to complete a job safely and well; the RRP Rules simply make sure their work practices are lead-safe.

The cost is minor in comparison to the cost and heartache of poisoning a child, family member, yourself or a pet, along with clean-up costs and reduced property value.

### Request Proof of Certification

Make sure that your contractor is trained in lead-safe work practices by asking to see their Georgia RRP Firm AND Renovator certifications.

To locate a list of Georgia-Certified Renovation Contractors go to [epd.georgia.gov/lead-based-paint](http://epd.georgia.gov/lead-based-paint).