Using the right practices

Cleaning
Start from the top and work to the bottom by:
> Damp dusting all surfaces
> Vacuuming carpets and hard floors
> Damp mopping floors and change rinse water regularly.

Use a high phosphate detergent e.g. liquid sugar soap which will help remove lead particles during the cleaning process.

Carpets
If removing old carpet, spray the surface with water to keep dust down. Roll the carpet inwards, wrap it in plastic and tape it up.

Repainting/Painting
When repainting, wet sanding and wet scraping are the safest methods of preparing the surface. Do not use open-flamed torches on lead paint as they create lead fumes. If you use a heat gun, use it on the lowest setting and do not linger in one spot for too long.

Demolishing
When demolishing try to minimise the amount of dust created. Use water to dampen down areas and surfaces. Make sure areas are well sealed. Use barriers to contain dust. When demolition is complete apply clean fill to area.

Roof & Ceiling work
When doing roof and ceiling work, make sure that any lead dust accumulated in roof cavities does not fall into the living areas. Remove dust in the roof cavities with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuum cleaner.

Loan Equipment
Industrial vacuum cleaners are loaned to community members for such tasks as cleaning up after renovations. Thick plastic sheeting should be used for isolating rooms which are being renovated in order to reduce contaminated dust filtering into other parts of the house.

For more information
Environmental Health Centre
117 Gertrude Street
PORT PIRIE SA 5540
Telephone: 8638 4100
www.health.sa.gov.au
www.pirie.sa.gov.au
www.pprhs.sa.gov.au

Non-English speaking: for information in languages other than English, call the interpreting and Translating Centre and ask them to call The Department of Health. This service is available at no cost to you, contact (08) 8226 1990.

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Sources of Lead

Lead dust
Households contain fine dust which has accumulated over period of time from industrial emissions, previous renovation activities, and current dust tracked in by residents.

Ceilings, wall cavities and floor spaces will contain lead dust. All household dust contains lead and can contaminate soft furnishings (e.g. carpets, lounges, curtains) particularly if not removed or covered with plastic during renovation activities.

Lead Paint
Lead dust can form when lead based paint is dry scraped, dry sanded or heated. Dust also forms when painted surfaces bump or rub together. Lead chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can re-enter the air when people vacuum, sweep or walk through it.

Pregnant women and young children should not be present during any renovations.

Preparation

Outside
Lay plastic under the work area to protect your garden and children’s play area. Close windows and doors. Warn your neighbours so they can protect themselves if dust blows their way.

Inside
Seal the area off from the rest of the house by covering floors, doors and windows with plastic and tape. Remove soft furnishings, curtains, carpets and other household items or cover them with plastic.

Personal Protection

> Wear protective clothing & equipment including face masks or respirators (P2 dust & fume)
> Don’t smoke whilst working
> Wash & dry your hands regularly, particularly before eating & drinking
> Use clean area for eating & drinking
> All dirty work clothes should be washed separate from family clothes
> Make sure you have showered & washed your hair before interacting with children & pregnant women.