

Pre-Reno Checklist: Identifying Lead Hazards in Your Home

This checklist will guide you through key areas to inspect for potential lead paint in your pre-1980s home. Remember, even if the paint appears to be in good condition, lead can still be present

Section	Description	Action
Windows & Doors	Lead paint was commonly used on window frames, sills, and trim, as well as door frames and molding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Look for chipping, peeling, or cracking paint, especially around edges and corners. * Check for signs of scraping, sanding, or other past attempts at paint removal (lead dust hazard). * Note any damaged or missing window glazing.
Trim & Skirting	These areas were often painted with lead-based products in older homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Inspect all trim (crown moulding, chair rails, etc.) for signs of wear and tear, especially in areas with high traffic or potential contact. * Examine baseboards for any chipping, peeling, or cracking paint.
Doors & Hardware	Don't forget to check door components beyond the frames.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Look for lead paint on doorstops, hinges, and any decorative hardware. * Inspect the bottom of interior and exterior doors for signs of wear and potential lead dust.
Built-in Cabinets & Shelving	Older built-in cabinets and shelving may have been lead-painted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Check for chipping, peeling, or damaged paint on cabinet doors, frames, and shelves. * If unsure, consider contacting a professional for testing, especially if you plan to modify or remove cabinets.
Radiators & Heating Systems	Lead paint was sometimes used on radiators and pipes in older homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Visually inspect radiators and heating pipes for any signs of paint, especially if they appear chipped or damaged. * Note any areas where the paint may have rubbed off due to heat or contact.

<p>Walls & Ceilings (Especially Textured)</p>	<p>While less common, lead paint could be present on walls and textured ceilings in older homes.</p>	<p>* Focus on areas with textured finishes (popcorn ceilings, etc.) where lead paint may have been used. * Look for signs of damage or repairs to plaster walls that could reveal underlying lead paint.</p>
<p>Exterior Features (if applicable)</p>	<p>Lead paint may have been used on exterior components in some pre-1980s homes.</p>	<p>* If your home has exterior elements like porches, railings, or decorative trim, inspect them for signs of lead paint (chipping, peeling). * Consider the history of your home's exterior renovations – past paint removal could create lead dust hazards.</p>
<p>Flooring (if applicable)</p>	<p>Lead paint was rarely used on floors, but some very old linoleum or subflooring materials may contain lead.</p>	<p>* If your home has original flooring materials (especially linoleum) from the pre-1970s, consider lead testing before renovations. * Be cautious if planning to remove or sand down any unknown flooring materials.</p>
<p>Other Potential Sources</p>	<p>Be aware of other unexpected lead paint locations.</p>	<p>* Check for lead paint on older furniture, window blinds, or even some types of toys (if present in the home). * If unsure about any painted surface, especially in high-traffic areas, consider lead testing.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Remember: This checklist is a starting point. If you discover any potential lead hazards, contact a lead-certified professional for testing and abatement services.</p>	<p>* Schedule a lead test with a certified professional if you suspect lead paint is present. * Contact a lead abatement contractor for safe removal of lead paint if testing confirms its presence. * Explore resources like the EPA website (https://www.epa.gov/lead) or your local government for lead abatement assistance programs.</p>