



In 2022, Vermont took over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) regulations requiring workers to be trained and licensed to use lead-safe work practices when they disturb painted surfaces in homes built before 1978.

The Vermont Department of Health oversees compliance with Vermont's Lead-Safe Renovation, Repair, Painting and Maintenance (RRPM) regulations and licenses individuals and companies that perform renovation, repair, painting and maintenance work.

## What type of work falls under the RRPM regulations?

The RRPM regulations require workers to follow certain lead-safe work practices to minimize the amount and spread of lead paint chips and dust, which can cause lead poisoning. Learn more about lead hazards and lead poisoning at [www.HealthVermont.gov/lead](http://www.HealthVermont.gov/lead).

The regulations apply to all pre-1978 housing (rented or owner-occupied) and child-occupied facilities, and to anyone who is a painter, carpenter, plumber, electrician, weatherization or window replacement contractor, landlord, property manager, or anyone else who disturbs painted surfaces in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities for compensation.

**If the home you own was built before 1978 (and you do not rent it out),** Lead-Safe RRPM licenses are required for contractors doing work that will disturb more than:

- 1 square foot per interior room
- 20 square foot per exterior side of building

Under Vermont law, all paint, stains and other coatings in pre-1978 buildings are considered lead-based unless tested by a Vermont-licensed lead inspector and the property has been granted an exemption by the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program. Vermont does not allow the use of hardware store lead test kits to verify if lead is present.

## What to ask, what to look for, and how to report a concern

If someone is working on your home, follow these steps to make sure they are performing the work properly.

**Step 1: Confirm the worker and company is Lead-Safe RRPM licensed before you sign a contract.**

- Ask to see a copy of both the RRPM Supervisor and RRPM Firm licenses.
- Look up the RRPM firm and supervisor licenses to verify they are current at [tinyURL.com/RRPM-lookup](http://tinyURL.com/RRPM-lookup).

In the contract, you might want to specify that the worker(s) have the correct Lead-Safe RRPM licenses and will use lead-safe work practices.

**Step 2: Make sure you receive RRPM educational materials from the contractor before the work begins.**

Within 60 days before starting work, workers are required to give you (the homeowner) a copy of:

- Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right pamphlet
- What Homeowners, Renters and Child Care Providers Need to Know About Vermont's Renovation, Repair, Painting and Maintenance (RRPM) Regulations

**Step 3: Observe the work activities to make sure the workers are following lead-safe work practices.**

Workers are required to use lead-safe work practices to make sure lead dust and debris are contained. Some work practices generate so much lead dust that they are not allowed under federal and state regulations.

Workers must follow these lead-safe work practices:

- Use plastic sheets to contain the work areas.
- Put up warning signs that alert others to potential lead hazards.
- Mist all surfaces before disturbing them to reduce spreading dust (working wet).
- No use of power tools without a permit and dust control attachments.
- Clean up and secure the work area daily.
- Clean up all work areas when the work is complete and before taking down the plastic sheets.

**Step 4: Contact the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program if you something that does not seem right.**

If you are concerned the work is not meeting the lead-safe work practices listed above, contact the worker or company to ask them to correct the issue(s). If you still have concerns or cannot get the cooperation of the worker or company, or if you see workers using any of the prohibited work practices, immediately fill out this online form at [tinyURL.com/submit-lead-tip](https://tinyurl.com/submit-lead-tip).

## Questions?

Learn more about the RRPM regulations and the 4 steps provided above at [HealthVermont.gov/RRPM](https://HealthVermont.gov/RRPM), or use your phone to scan the QR code on the left.

Contact the Asbestos and Lead Regulatory Program by emailing [ALRP@vermont.gov](mailto:ALRP@vermont.gov) or calling 802-863-7220.

