



KEEPING SAFE

# Lead Paint

## How to keep safe

**We are here to help.**

Your health, safety and wellbeing are very important to us.

**If you are concerned about lead paint, please call us any time on**

**0800 801 601**

Calls to this number are free, including from a mobile phone.

### Tips to help keep safe:



Don't try to repair any flaking paint yourself.



If your house is damaged please let us know straight away so it can be repaired quickly.



Take shoes off before coming inside or use a door mat to clean shoes.



Place food gardens away from house walls and the road, especially if the property is older.



Wash or peel all food taken from your garden.



Don't let children or pets bite, chew or scratch paint in the house.



Always make sure children wash their hands before they eat.



Do not enter a lead paint removal area and please closely supervise children at all times.



Change your clothes and wash your hands before coming home if your hobbies or work involve exposure to lead paint.



**You can phone Healthline any time on 0800 611 116, to talk to a nurse. Calls to this number are free, including from a mobile phone.**



Please keep pets, such as a dog, secured and away from any areas where contractors are working.



KEEPING SAFE

# Lead Paint

## Always call us if you need any maintenance or repairs

As a general rule, please avoid doing repairs or maintenance yourself, as this may disturb hazards such as lead paint. Especially avoid any work that involves cutting, sanding, water-blasting or removing building materials.

Housing New Zealand will use specialist contractors who will carry out any repairs in a way that prevents lead paint dust being released.

Contact Housing New Zealand straight away if there is any damage to paintwork. This could be flaking paint in poor condition particularly on surfaces children can reach like painted window sills, door frames and kitchen cabinetry. If the exterior paint is in poor condition or damaged please also let us know.

## What will happen if lead paint removal or repairs are required?

- If major lead paint removal work needs to be done, we'll always let you know. You will be kept informed by the contractor. The contractor will keep you informed and will explain the work they'll be doing and hazards to be aware of. They'll let you know a timeframe and answer any questions you have.
- Please don't enter the lead paint removal area while work is being undertaken. This area will be clearly identified by the contractor, before work starts. This safety requirement applies to anyone either living in or visiting the property, at any time while work is in progress.
- Please keep pets, such as a dog, secured and away from any areas where contractors are working.
- Never go back into these areas until the contractor says it's safe to do so.
- In some cases, for safety reasons temporary accommodation may be required. Your Tenancy Manager will work with you to organise this.
- Remember we are here to help so please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

## More information – lead paint

### Where is lead paint found?

Lead can be found in paint in houses built before 1997.

### Where else can lead paint be found?

Lead paint can also be found on, or in, old or imported painted or plastic toys.

Some herbal remedies have also been found to contain lead including Ayurvedic medicines, Ghasard, Ba-baw-san, Daw Tway, Pay-loo-ah, Bala Goli, Kandu and Kohl (Alkohol). Only buy medicines that list the ingredients and you know are safe.

Lead can be present in soil and gardens from old petrol and paint.

### What are the health risks?

Exposure to lead is a health risk, especially to children and pregnant women.

When eaten or breathed in, lead may affect the developing brain and nervous system.

If you are concerned about your health, contact your doctor.

### What if there is lead paint in my house?

If the paint remains undamaged and is not flaking, it is safe. If the paint is flaking, damaged or has been sanded please stay away from the area. Then call us any time on **0800 801 601**. Calls to this number are free, including from a mobile phone.

## To talk to a nurse, you can phone Healthline any time on

**0800 611 116**

Calls to this number are free, including from a mobile phone.

## If you are concerned about lead paint, please call us any time on

**0800 801 601**

Calls to this number are free, including from a mobile phone.