

Local Law 1 - NYC Lead Poisoning Prevention Law Information for Tenants

The text below is a printer-friendly version of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) brochure for tenants entitled, "Fix Lead Paint". For additional information on lead poisoning, go to www.nyc.gov/lead or call 311.

Fix Lead Paint Hazards:

What Landlords Must Do and Every Tenant Should Know

Lead Can Cause Learning Problems

Lead is a poison often found in old paint. Peeling lead paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning in young children. Lead dust from peeling paint can land on window sills, floors, and toys. When children play on the floor and put their hands and toys in their mouths, they can swallow lead dust.

Preventing Lead Poisoning: What the Law Requires

In New York City, Local Law 1 of 2004 requires landlords to identify and fix lead paint hazards in the apartments of young children. This law applies to your apartment if:

- The building was built before 1960 (or between 1960 and 1978 if the owner knows that the building has lead paint), and
- The building has 3 or more apartments, and
- A child under the age of 6 lives in your apartment.

What Are Lead Paint Hazards?

- Dust from lead paint.
- Peeling or damaged lead paint.
- Lead paint on:
 - Crumbling plaster or rotted wood.
 - Doors and windows that stick or rub together.
 - Window sills and any other surfaces that have been chewed on by children.

Things Landlords Must Do

- In buildings covered by Local Law 1, landlords must find out if any children younger than 6 years live in the building and inspect those apartments for lead paint hazards **every year**.
- Landlords must use safe work practices and trained workers when fixing lead paint hazards and when doing general repair work that disturbs lead paint.
- Local Law 1 requires landlords to use firms certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency when disturbing more than 100 square feet of lead paint, replacing windows, or fixing violations issued by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD).
- Landlords must repair lead paint hazards **before** a new tenant moves into an apartment.
- Landlords must keep records of all notices, inspections, repairs of lead paint hazards, and other matters related to the law. HPD may ask the landlord for copies of this paperwork.



Before repair work begins, landlords must make sure that trained workers:

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- Post warning signs outside the work area.
- Tell tenants to stay out of the work area.
- Clean the work area with wet mops or HEPA vacuums.
- Remove all items that can be moved from the work area.
- Cover furniture that cannot be moved.
- Seal floors, doors, and other openings with plastic and waterproof tape.



While repair work is going on, landlords must make sure trained workers clean the work area every day with wet mops and HEPA vacuums.

Landlords and contractors must NEVER dry-scrape or dry-sand lead paint.

After repair work is finished, landlords must:

- Hire only trained workers to clean the work area with wet mops and HEPA vacuums.
- Hire a company or individual trained to take "clearance dust wipes" to make sure lead dust levels are below: 40 mcg/sf for floors, 250 mcg/sf for window sills, and 400 mcg/sf for window wells (mcg/sf = micrograms of lead per square foot). If levels are higher, clean-up must be repeated and the dust wipes taken again.
- Give a copy of clearance dust wipe results to the tenant.

Things Tenants Must Do

- Tenants must fill out and return the ANNUAL NOTICE form they receive each year from their landlord. This form tells your landlord if any children younger than 6 years live in your apartment.
- Wash floors, window sills, hands, toys, and pacifiers often.
- Remind your doctor to test your child for lead poisoning at ages 1 and 2. Ask the doctor about testing older children.
- If a child younger than 6 comes to live with you during the year or if you have a baby, you must notify your landlord in writing.

Tenants should also:

- Report peeling paint in your apartment to your landlord.
- Call 311 if your landlord does not fix peeling paint or if you think repair work is being done unsafely.



Call 311 to

- **Report unsafe work practices.**
- **Learn more about how to prevent lead poisoning.**
- **Find out where to get your child tested for lead poisoning, and for diagnosis and treatment information.**
- **Order more copies of this brochure or other materials on lead poisoning prevention.**

Owners of multiple dwellings (3 or more apartments) must give this brochure to tenants when they sign a lease or move into an apartment if the multiple dwelling was built before 1960, or was built between 1960 and 1978 if the owner knows that the building has lead paint. This brochure contains basic information about Local Law 1 of 2004 and is provided for your convenience only. For a copy of the law and applicable rules go to nyc.gov/hpd.