

Lead-Based Paint in Apartments FAQ

What is lead-based paint?

Lead is a toxic metal that was mixed in to paints, varnishes and shellacs. Lead was used in paint to add color, improve the ability of the paint to hide the surface it covers, and to make it last longer.

Does my apartment contain lead-based paint?

If your apartment complex was constructed prior to 1978, it probably contains lead-based paint. It may be on any surface but is most commonly found on exterior-painted surfaces, interior woodwork, doors, and windows. The use of lead-based paint in housing was banned in 1978 by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Is it safe for me to live in my apartment?

Yes. The mere presence of lead-based paint in your apartment is not hazardous. Paint that is well cared for does not pose a danger. Lead is most dangerous to children under the age of six because their growing bodies absorb more lead. They are also more likely to put their hands and other objects into their mouths that may have lead dust on them.

Why are you providing me this information?

By providing you this information, we request your assistance in avoiding damaging painted surfaces and reporting any significant damage to help minimize any potential exposure. We are also required under "The Residential Lead-Based Paint Reduction Act of 1992" to disclose all known lead-based paint and its hazards before the sale or lease of most housing built prior to 1978. Lessees must also receive a pamphlet on lead poisoning prevention developed by EPA and HUD entitled [Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home](#).

How does Rutgers ensure that lead dust is not generated during renovation or maintenance work?

Rutgers utilizes EPA lead-certified firms and all work is conducted under the supervision of an EPA certified renovator to ensure that all work activities are performed utilizing lead-safe work practices and that the areas are thoroughly cleaned prior to re-occupancy.

What can I do to prevent lead paint from becoming a hazard?

Regular cleaning (weekly) of surfaces can help reduce the potential for exposure.

- Clean floors, window frames, window sills and other surfaces weekly using a mop, sponge or paper towel with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner;
- Sponges and mop heads should be thoroughly rinsed after cleaning dirty or dusty areas and after each use; and
- Pick up loose paint chips carefully with a paper towel and discard in the trash, and then wipe the surface clean with a wet paper towel.

Report any significant damage to painted surfaces immediately to the University Facilities & Capital Planning Service Call Center at 848-445-1234 or online via the Maintenance Service Request system at <http://facilities.rutgers.edu/submit-a-maintenance-service-request-NEW>. The damage will be evaluated and, if necessary, corrected as promptly as possible.