



LPE-01 · Lead Paint Essentials

Practical Safety Guide for Homes & Occupants

For homeowners, tenants, landlords and occupants

What Is Lead Paint?

Lead paint was widely used in UK homes built before 1990. It was applied to walls, woodwork, windows and doors. Over time, it can deteriorate or be disturbed releasing harmful dust or chips.


Where Is It Commonly Found?

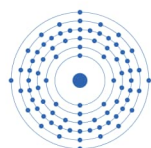
- Window frames and sills
- Doors and door frames
- Skirting boards and architraves
- Walls & ceilings in older properties (pre-1980)
- Painted or varnished floors
- Outbuildings, garages and sheds
- Painted metalwork (pipes, radiators, railings)

Why It Matters

Lead is a toxic substance. Even low-level exposure can be harmful, particularly to children and pregnant women. Disturbance during renovation or paint in poor condition is the most common cause of exposure due to hand-to-mouth behaviour and increased sensitivity to lead.



 **Lead-based paint may still be present beneath newer layers of paint. Considerations should be made before starting any redecorating work.**



folpa[®]

THE FELLOWSHIP OF LEAD PAINT ASSESSORS

This leaflet provides general guidance only and does not replace professional advice or assessment. ©
2026 Fellowship of Lead Paint Assessors (FOLPA). All rights reserved.
This leaflet may be shared in full for non-commercial use with appropriate attribution.

e: info@folpa.org.uk w: www.folpa.org.uk

What You Should Do

✓ Simple Safety Advice

- Do not sand, scrape or drill painted surfaces in older properties without testing first
- Keep painted surfaces in good condition
- Manage flaking or damaged paint promptly by over painting.
- Clean up dust & chips carefully before they are dispersed, use damp cloths, not dry sweeping.
- Vacuum flakes and chip where seen, but ensure vacuum is HEPA rated and (preferable H13/14). Vacuum contents should be disposed in an outside bin immediately
- Wash hands thoroughly after any contact with old painted surfaces
- Ventilate rooms when carrying out any decorating work

🔍 When Should You Test?

- If in doubt test before any renovation, refurbishment or repair work
- When paint is flaking, peeling or deteriorating
- When buying or letting an older property (pre-1990)
- Before preparing, stripping or drilling painted surfaces
- When children or pregnant women occupy the property
- Where paint has been disturbed or is in poor condition
- If you are unsure of the property's paint history
- Prior to workers starting works whether internally or externally

📋 DO

- Monitor paint prone to damage and wear
- Test before you disturb
- Use a suitably experienced professional where testing is required
- Overpaint damaged surfaces where safe
- Discuss concerns with workers & contractors before works start
- remove any flaking paint or chips promptly to avoid distribution

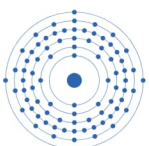
📋 DO NOT

- Dry sand or scrape old paint
- Burn off old paint layers
- Assume painted-over surfaces are safe to disturb
- Ignore flaking or damaged paint
- Carry out work without checking
- Involve children in "Family" Decorating and DIY
- Prepare food in areas that are being redecorated

👶 Children & Vulnerable Occupants

Children and pregnant women are most at risk from lead exposure. Extra care should be taken in any home built before 1990 where the presence or condition of lead paint is unknown or deteriorating.

If unsure, seek advice before carrying out any work



folpa[®]

THE FELLOWSHIP OF LEAD PAINT ASSESSORS

This leaflet provides general guidance only and does not replace professional advice or assessment. ©

2026 Fellowship of Lead Paint Assessors (FOLPA). All rights reserved.

This leaflet may be shared in full for non-commercial use with appropriate attribution.

e: info@folpa.org.uk w: www.folpa.org.uk