



**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF AIR RESOURCES / OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND INSPECTION**

**SUMMARY OF 250-RICR-120-05-24  
REMOVAL OF LEAD BASED PAINT FROM EXTERIOR SURFACES**

The requirements of 250-RICR-120-05-24 Removal of Lead Based Paint from Exterior Surfaces (Part 24) can be found in its entirety on the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) website: [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov)

**Applicable to whom:** Part 24 applies to any person, including contractors and homeowners, who remove lead-based paint from exterior surfaces.

**Exemption from regulation:** A contractor or homeowner is exempt from Part 24 if they have paint adequately tested, and test results determine that there is no more than 0.05% lead by weight calculated as lead metal in the dried solid, or greater than or equal to one (1.0) mg/cm<sup>2</sup> by an X-ray fluorescence analyzer in any paint to be removed from the structure. If no lead is present in the paint to be removed, then 250-RICR-120-05-5 Fugitive Dust (Part 5) may apply, which requires that containment methods be used during paint removal.

**Notification requirements:** Adults in residences (including the structure from which lead paint is being removed), managers of businesses, and principals of schools located within 50 feet of the structure undergoing lead paint removal must be notified, in writing, of the removal of lead-based paint **at least 7 days prior** to the removal project.

**Preparation of site:** To collect paint debris, use adequate ground cover (such as a tarp) anchored or weighted down. Remove all toys, play equipment, and furnishings within 50 feet of the paint removal project, or cover them with a leak proof material. Erect vertical containment if paint debris will go beyond ground sheeting.

**Structures other than Buildings:** A plan must be submitted to the DEM's Office of Air Resources for approval prior to the removal. This plan must describe the type of removal to be utilized, and measures to be employed to prevent contamination of the environment with lead. To request approval, you must submit your plan to the RI DEM Office of Air Resources.

**APPROVED METHODS OF REMOVAL**

**Wet Manual Scraping:** Mist paint surfaces with water just prior to scraping

**HEPA Equipped Mechanical Sanding or Scraping:** Allowed as long as sander or scraper is equipped with a HEPA vacuum unit. Sanding pad or scraping disc cannot be wider than the shingle or clapboard exposure. Close and seal all doors and windows on paint removal side. Air conditioners must be shut off and covered.

**HEPA Equipped Dry Abrasive:** Abrasive-blasting system must be equipped with a HEPA vacuum that collects paint debris at the blasting head. Close and seal all doors and windows on paint removal side. Air conditioners must be shut off and covered.

**Wet Abrasive:** Vertical containment must be used to prevent any and all lead paint debris generated by the operation from going beyond ground sheeting. Any and all liquid waste containing lead must be handled and disposed of in accordance with DEM Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulations.

**Heat Removal:** No open flame is permitted. Heat Gun or other devices cannot exceed 1000°F.

**Chemical Removal:** Allowed as long as stripper is nonflammable and contains no methylene chloride.



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**ALTERNATIVE METHODS**

For use of an alternative method of lead-based paint removal, a description of the alternative methods must be submitted to, and approved by, DEM's Office of Air Resources prior to removing paint. To request approval for an alternative method, applicants may contact the RI DEM Office of Air Resources at (401) 222-2808 extension 2777012.

**CLEAN UP**

**End of Day:** Collect and place in containers all lead paint related debris, including liquid waste, and store in plastic bags in an area **not** easily accessible to the public. Inspect area for any leftover paint debris. All sheeting must be removed and stored away from public access.

**End of Project:** Properly dispose of all containers of lead paint debris and liquid waste, including ground covers. Inspect area for any leftover paint debris. Dispose of paint in accordance with DEM Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulations. Lead paint debris and liquid waste generated by homeowners are not subject to regulation as hazardous waste, and maybe disposed of as solid waste. Follow guidelines for work area clean up, as described in 250-RICR-120-05-24 Removal of Lead Basked Paint from Exterior Surfaces.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In all cases, local ordinances must be adhered to.

Lead paint dust is DANGEROUS! Lead poisoning is a serious environmental and health hazard. According to the RI Department of Health, even at low levels, lead exposure can cause learning disabilities, lower IQ, behavioral problems, high blood pressure, anemia, brain damage, impotence, and death.

Most houses built in Rhode Island prior to 1978 contain lead-based paint. Renovating, repairing, and painting lead-painted surfaces creates hazardous dust, fumes, and debris which can lead to environmental and health hazards if removed improperly.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Questions related to Part 24** may be directed to: RI DEM Office of Air Resources at 401-222-2808 extension 2777012.  
or, the RI DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection at 401-222-1360.

**Complaints related to improper removal of lead-based paint from an exterior surface** may be directed to:

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection	(401) 222-1360
At other times	DEM Enforcement	(401) 222-3070

**Questions about disposal of hazardous waste** may be directed to: RI DEM Office of Technical and Customer Assistance at 401-222-6822.

Request DEM approval to remove lead paint with power washing/pressure washing equipment, or the use of any method not approved in Part 24, by contacting the RI DEM Office of Air Resources at (401) 222-2808. Lead paint removal by any procedure considered an alternative procedure, or from structures other than buildings, must not begin until a written approval is issued by DEM's Office of Air Resources.

**Questions about removal of lead-based paint from Interior Surfaces** may be directed to: RI Department of Health at (401) 222-5960 or the Lead Hotline at (800) 942-7434.

For questions and information about worker protection, contractors may contact Providence Area OSHA at (401) 528-4669.

