



**Dustless Demolition Ltd. [\(250\) 215-8070](tel:2502158070)**

**Serving: Kelowna, Vernon, Penticton and surrounding areas**

## **How to Spot Lead in Older Homes**

*What Every Homeowner Should Know Before Renovating or Restoring a Pre-1978 Property*

### **1. Know the Age of Your Home**

Lead paint was banned in residential homes in 1978. If your house was built before that year—or even renovated before the 1990s—there’s a high chance it still contains lead-based materials. Start by checking your home's construction year on county records or a past appraisal.

### **2. Identify Key Areas Where Lead Hides**

Lead paint was used on both interior and exterior surfaces. Watch for it in:

- **Windows and sills**
- **Doors, doorframes, and trim**
- **Baseboards and molding**
- **Walls in kitchens and bathrooms**
- **Stair rails and banisters**
- **Porches and exterior siding**

Any chipping, cracking, or peeling paint in these areas should raise a red flag.

### **3. Watch for Suspicious Paint Behavior**

Lead-based paint behaves differently than modern latex:

- **Alligatoring:** Looks like cracked reptile skin
- **Chalking:** Leaves a powdery residue when touched
- **Peeling in sheets:** Lead paint tends to peel off in large, brittle flakes

If your paint has any of these traits, stop sanding or scraping until it’s tested.

### **4. Use a Lead Test Kit**

Hardware stores sell **EPA-recognized lead test kits** (like 3M LeadCheck®). These swabs can detect lead on painted surfaces in seconds. Swipe it across the area—if it turns red or pink, lead is likely present.

**Important:** These kits work best on bare wood or metal, so multiple paint layers might affect accuracy.

## 5. Pay Attention During Renovations

If dust forms quickly when disturbing old paint, or if workers aren't using protective gear and containment barriers, stop the job and test for lead. Disturbed lead paint becomes most dangerous when airborne or tracked through the house.

## 6. Call a Certified Lead Inspector

Visual checks and DIY tests are just the start. For peace of mind, hire a certified lead inspector to:

- Use **XRF (X-ray fluorescence)** tools to scan surfaces
- Take lab samples from walls, dust, or soil
- Provide a written risk assessment with next steps

This is especially important before remodeling, repainting, or if children live in the home.

## 7. Know the Health Warning Signs

Lead exposure is often invisible—but symptoms may appear over time, especially in children:

- Irritability or mood swings
- Fatigue or stomach issues
- Developmental delays
- Learning or behavior problems

If any of these signs show up in kids or adults after a home project, get tested and speak to a doctor immediately.

## Final Thought

Spotting lead early isn't just about compliance—it's about protecting your family's health for years to come. Don't take chances with what you can't see. If you suspect lead, **call in certified help before the dust spreads.**

 Need certified lead testing or removal?

**Dustless Demolition is here to help.** We offer fast, safe, fully compliant inspections and abatement solutions for homes, schools, and businesses.

 Call [\(250\) 215-8070](tel:2502158070) today or

Contact us online <https://dustlessdemo.ca> to schedule your inspection.