

Lead site Checklist

Controlling exposures to prevent occupational lung disease in
CONSTRUCTION

Construction Managers Toolkit 
Checklist

Health Speak

PPE Personal Protective Equipment
RPE Respiratory Protective Equipment
SDS Safety Data Sheet Local
LEV Extract Ventilation
HEPA High-Efficiency Particulate Air

Contractor:	
Inspected by:	
Date:	

Question	Help!	Yes / No / N.A.	Comments / positive observations	Actions required	L/M/H	Responsible person / company	Completion date
Do you have a system for checking if there is any lead present on site?	Lead is a problem is you apply heat or create a dust. Workers could be exposed from burning of old lead paint; stripping of old lead paint from doors, windows etc or hot cutting in demolition and dismantling operations. You can only control this risk if you have a system for identifying when lead is present.						
Do you have a risk assessment for all tasks that involve lead?	A Lead assessment is just like a risk assessment. It should focus on the task to ensure it is done without exposing workers to harmful levels of lead dust or fume. You need to make sure workers know what the assessment says and that they use the controls specified properly. If you have a occupational hygienist, they may be a good person to carry out a lead assessment.						

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<p>If lead cannot be removed from the process can you change the task so lead dust or fume is not generated?</p>	<p>Consider removing sections of leaded paint before hot cutting or grinding area. Paint can be removed by wet methods or chemical stripper (but consider hazards of chemical). Where wet blasting is used sweep up the debris often so it can't dry out and become a lead dust hazard. Also keep the area free from unnecessary items so they don't get covered in lead dust.</p>						
<p>Are measures being used to reduce exposure to lead dust or fume?</p>	<p>Consider local extraction to capture fumes or dust. It must be well designed however and be practical to use, otherwise it will be money wasted and not reduce exposure. It's very important to regularly check that controls such as LEV is being used and working ok. If it's not being used listen to the reasons why and try and fix them. A detailed check should be done and recorded for LEV every 14 months and for non disposable RPE monthly.</p>						

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<p>Is lead dust or fume ever created where natural ventilation is reduced such as a small room, in a pit or a sheeted in area?</p>	<p>Take extra care in this situation, it's likely to be where people get exposed to harmful levels. Can you avoid doing the job in this way? Try to increase the level of ventilation or draw away harmful materials eg local extraction. A special type of Respirator might be required. These tasks might be worth seeking further advice.</p>						
<p>Has somebody checked that the right type of respirators are being used?</p>	<p>RPE is complicated. There are different types of masks and filters. If you get the wrong one it could be no use at all. You need someone who understands this subject to check that the lead risk assessments state the right RPE and workers are wearing it correctly. If filters are used they must be changed regularly or they will become useless. Very different filters are required for organic lead vapours than those for lead dust.</p> <p>Respiratory protective equipment (RPE).</p>						

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<p>Have all workers who need to wear a respirator had a face fit test?</p>	<p>For all respirators that seal against the face wearers need to have a face fit test.</p> <p>Fit testing basics - Respiratory protective equipment (RPE).</p>						
<p>Has somebody checked that the right type of other types of PPE are being used?</p>	<p>Gloves or body protection also need to be chosen carefully. You need someone who understands this subject to check that the risk assessments are correct and workers are wearing the right types. Lead dust should be kept off the skin. It is extra important to keep organic lead liquids off the skin.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).</p>						

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<p>Can PPE be easily cleaned and stored in a clean area?</p>	<p>Re-usable PPE may need to be cleaned. If dust gets inside respirators, or protective clothing gets dirty on the inside workers may be exposed to lead. Contaminated clothing must not be taken home.</p>						
<p>Do workers eat and drink in a clean area?</p>	<p>To avoid accidental ingestion of lead workers should be able to wash before eating and take meals in an area free from lead contamination. Eating and drinking should not be allowed in areas where contamination is possible.</p>						

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<p>Have you determined if lead exposure is "significant" according to the Regulations?</p>	<p>If it is significant air monitoring and blood tests will be required.</p>						
<p>Have any measurements been taken of what workers are breathing in?</p>	<p>If lead exposure is "significant" then regular air monitoring will be required.</p>						

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Do your workers have health checks that might detect early signs of ill health caused by work with lead?	If lead exposure is "significant" then regular medicals including blood tests will be required.						
Are records kept of all tests and maintenance of control measures (including LEV and respirators)?	If you use extraction systems (LEV) to reduce exposure to the dusts, fumes, vapours etc. then you must maintain the LEV in efficient working order so it continues to provide the necessary protection. You should have a thorough examination and test (at least every 14 months) and must keep this record for at least 5 years.						
Are records kept of air monitoring results and health checks?							

Any other comments

The checklist items cannot be entirely comprehensive. Write down any other important points below.

