

Lead: Check Controls Before Disturbing Material

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | Reviewed October 7, 2026 | Discussion + field checks

Why this matters

Cutting, sanding or removing lead-containing material can spread contamination beyond the task. Verify the assessed work method and hygiene arrangements before disturbance, including how contamination stays out of vehicles and homes.

Objective: Identify the lead-control plan and verify its readiness before work.

Key hazards or failure points

Unidentified material; airborne dust or fume; ineffective capture; contaminated hands, clothing and tools; dust carried into clean areas or home.

Practical controls

- Confirm the material assessment and task-specific exposure determination with the responsible person. Certain tasks require interim protection while assessment is pending; waiting for results is not permission to work unprotected.
- Use the assessed work method and required engineering, respiratory and clothing controls. Follow the lead program; this talk does not select a respirator.
- Provide the required washing, changing, cleanup and clothing-handling arrangements. Keep food and drink out of contaminated areas.

Verify It in the Field

Match the assessed material, activity and tools to today's work. A material test alone does not establish worker airborne exposure. Resolve changed methods or missing assessment information.

Check the actual dust-control assembly, condition and specified operating indicators using the approved safe method. Record the criterion and actual result; a running vacuum or no visible dust is not proof.

Check that required hygiene facilities work and clean/dirty areas are usable. Confirm how contaminated clothing, tools and waste are contained and handled without spreading dust into personal vehicles or homes.

Stop and reassess

Hold disturbance for unknown material, missing protection, failed dust controls or unavailable required hygiene facilities. Keep others clear, notify the responsible person, correct and verify controls, then rebrief.

Ask the crew

1. Does the assessment cover this exact method?
2. What result verifies our dust control?
3. How will contamination stay out of our vehicles?

Construction lead awareness; not a complete lead-compliance program.

Sources: OSHA 1926.62; NIOSH lead prevention guidance.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/lead-exposure-take-home-prevention