

## Remove Paint or Varnish

### Checklist

- 4" scraper
- Sandpaper
- Steel wool
- Power sander



If you scrape or remove lead paint, it may release lead dust. Lead is toxic. Exposure to lead can cause brain damage, especially in children and pregnant women. Wear a NIOSH approved respirator to control lead exposure. Clean up with a Hepa vacuum and a wet mop. Contact the national Lead Hotline at 1-800-424-LEAD before you start or visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

### Using a power sander:

#### One: How to decide whether or not you should sand.

- Paint or varnish can be sanded away with a power or hand sander.
  - For a bigger sanding job, use a power sander.
  - Belt, disk or drum sanders can also be used.



Although sanding removes paint quickly and easily, it also removes some of the wood surface underneath the paint. If you're working on a fine piece of furniture, you should sand it.

#### Two: How to choose the coarse of the sandpaper.

- When sanding old paint or varnish from the surface, use open coat coarse sandpaper.
  - Fine sandpaper clogs quickly, making it ineffective as a paint remover.



Sanding is only recommended on extremely rough jobs. Chemical removers are more effective and easier to use.

### Using the heating method:

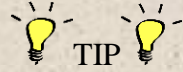
#### One: Heating up.

- This method destroys the film in the old paint.
  - Usually special electric paint removers or heat guns use heat to remove paints or varnish.

#### Two: Begin scraping.

- Scrape away the paint immediately after heating it.

- Use a broad paint scraper.



Don't let the heat gun stay in one spot long enough that it'll burn the wood. Move it often as to avoid browning and darkening of areas.