



306 E. Main Room 201,  
East Helena, MT 59635  
Phone: 406-457-8583 / Fax: 406-457-8573  
Website: [www.LewisAndClarkHealth.org](http://www.LewisAndClarkHealth.org)

## Lead Education and Assistance Program

---

### Planning to Re-Shingle Your Home This Year?

Whether you buy a home or have lived in one since it was built, chances are you will need to replace your roof at some point. Most roofs last twenty to thirty years, but natural disasters and other mishaps can shorten a roof's life span by a significant amount.

When re-shingling the best plan is removing the old roofing materials down to the underlying wood sheathing, which is the plywood attached to the rafters of your house/attic. By going down to the sheathing, the roofer can install the proper ventilation, flashing and waterproofing systems for your new roof, as well as making the needed repairs to any rotten or damaged wood. In addition, nailing or screwing the sheathing down can help prevent damages from high winds in areas that face this issue.

One of the best roofing tips to get the job done right and save you time and money is to hire a professional from the beginning. Re-roofing can be done by yourself, but the cost of wasted materials and time spent trying to get it done right usually costs more in the long run.

If you choose to hire a contractor there are many considerations to take into account before you decide on the right one. Price is usually the deciding factor, however; workmanship, insurance, and accountability are also very important factors in making that choice. Discuss with your contractor what needs to be done and get the bid and those items in writing so there are no hidden surprises when the job is done.

Here are a few things to keep in mind before you or a contractor starts the job:

1. If you live in the East Helena city limits, the City of East Helena requires you have a building permit before you start the roofing project.
2. Shingles that have been on homes, while ASARCO was in operation, are considered a reservoir for lead dust. Use a protective barrier such as a tarp or heavy plastic sheet on the ground over the entire area to catch shingle debris that misses the disposal container. Wrap the debris securely when the roofing project is done and dispose of it properly in the container.
3. If you are doing the project yourself and want to have a dumpster delivered and picked up when the project is completed, contact Tri-County Disposal at 227-6300.
4. If you will be hauling and disposing of the shingles yourself, contact the Lewis and Clark County Landfill at 457-8521 for additional information.

Replacing your roof doesn't need to be a lengthy and complicated process, you should be able to make a few basic choices, usually about the contractor and materials used, then sit back and watch the work being done quickly and effectively the first time.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, stop by the Lead Education and Assistance (LEAP) office at 306 E. Main, Room 201, East Helena or give Jan or Debb a call at 457-8583. We hope you have a safe and healthy summer!

*Our mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents.*