

LEAD REMOVAL FOR KEA

Thank you very much for supporting kea by removing lead fixtures from your roof.

Lead poisoning is a very serious issue for kea that cause them to become very sick or even die. So we are delighted that you want to help!



Safety first!

We at the Kea Conservation Trust and the Arthurs Pass Kea team are really passionate about your safety.

Working at heights is a risky business, so when you replace lead fixtures on your roof, here are a few things to consider.

Please read the information below carefully, and take your time to consider all risks before starting out any work.

Don't do it yourself

We highly recommend that you get a qualified roofer with suitable health and safety practices to take care of the lead removal on your roof. It is the safest and easiest way to get lead nails and flashings replaced, and the professionals will make sure your roof is top notch! They are able to properly assess health and safety risks as well as the current state of your roof. We especially recommend working with a

qualified contractor if the building is larger, i.e. bigger than a six bunk hut.

If you still consider doing the work yourself and have not done work like this before, please make sure you get instructions and guidance from someone who is proficient and experienced in working on roofs. Also, please do not carry out this kind of work alone.



The right conditions

- Please consider the weather conditions. You shouldn't work on your roof during strong winds, frost, ice and snow. Also be aware of the sun. Wear a hat, protective glasses and sunscreen if it's sunny outside.
- Do not go up on a roof if you are dizzy, have issues with your balance or if you are feeling unwell.
- Make sure you wear the right gear: Non-slip shoes (i.e. soft or rubber soled footwear), sturdy clothes as well as gloves and protective glasses and a helmet if required. Hearing protection is recommended if you use noisy machinery.
- Ask someone to help you by being present while you are on the roof and viewing any potential risks. A second pair of eyes can make a worksite a lot safer!
- Make sure your tools are in good condition. Damaged tools can lead to serious injuries.

Preparation

- Roof access: Is there a permanent roof access from below the roof? If so, is it safe to use?
- If there is no permanent roof access, a mobile elevation platform, a temporary work platform, scaffolding and edge protection will help ensure a safe work environment.
- Please make sure the surface of the roof is dry before commencing any work.
- Mobile elevation platforms should be set up, maintained and operated by qualified personnel only.
- If you use a temporary work platform, make sure it is set up on firm and level ground and in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions. If the platform does not have a guardrail it should only be used for low-level work.
- Qualified scaffolders can install appropriate edge protection and scaffolding that suits the pitch and condition of your roof. If any part of it is five metres or more above the ground, a qualified scaffolder must install these systems.
- Ladders are a lot less stable than platforms so make sure you only use them if all other options are exhausted, and only for short-term work in low-risk situations. If you use a ladder, make sure it is in good nick, stable and preferably industrial grade, and always have another person assisting you. It should have a load rating of at least 120 kg. When you set it up, make sure it is secured at the top and the bottom. It should be pitched at above 75 degree and extend at least 1 m above the stepping-off point. Always maintain three points of contact when climbing up to protect you from slipping and falling. Make sure you do not overreach.

- Portable ladders shall not exceed the following height limits:
 - Nine metres for single ladders,
 - 15 metres for extension ladders,
 - 6.1 metres for step ladders or step platforms (preferable over step ladders).
- When working from ladders do not carry tools while climbing it. Use a tool belt instead. Make sure you face the steps of the ladder while working to avoid side-loading.
- Saw horses with planks are not suitable working platforms! The same applies to any other building materials like pallets, bricks, buckets, barrels, crates or furniture.
- Restraint systems, safety nets or mesh and fall arrest systems are to be used by trained and qualified professionals only, and only if the measures above are exhausted.
- Make sure you feel comfortable with the pitch of your roof and the safety measures in place. If you feel it is too steep (generally above 25 degree) or you are uncomfortable, leave the work to the professionals.
- Is the roof safe to work on? Before starting out, thoroughly inspect the roof from the inside and outside for rusty and brittle material that could break when you step on it. Examples are: old masonry tiles, glass, fibrolite sheets, clear roofing and corroded metal roofing.
Sagged trusses or rafters are an indication of damage to the structure. Please consult a qualified roofer if you discover any signs of damage to your roof!
- If you discover asbestos-cement sheeting on your roof, do not attempt to fix or remove it yourself. Only a qualified person with a Certificate of Competence from WorkSafe is allowed to handle asbestos.
- If you work on your gutters and it has been raining, remove any excess rainwater.
- Cover and mark all openings (i.e. skylights) to make sure you do not accidentally fall through them.
- Make sure there are no electrical hazards. Take a note of where electrical wires and phone lines are, and stay well clear of them. Also make sure you stay away from overhead electric lines. Contact your power company to confirm the minimum distance you have to keep from power lines close to your house.



- Do as much work as possible on the ground. Pre-assemble items on the ground or inside the building. Remove complex fixtures from the roof to fix them on the ground. If there are components that need new paint, pre-paint them on the ground.
- Also check the potential fall zone for objects that could lead to injuries in the event of a fall, and remove them if possible. Where they cannot be removed make sure everyone who is working on the roof is aware of their location and avoids working directly above them.

On the roof

- Always mind your step! Tread carefully and make sure you only walk on stable areas. Stay well clear of edges and openings.
- Make sure you have adequate lighting.
- Watch out for trip hazards (i.e. protruding nails and screws, wires, lapped boards). If you cannot remove them, make sure you stay clear of them.
- Make sure you can handle the weight and size of the material. Ask for help or use a lifting aid.
- Keep your tool belt well balanced and secured.
- Please always work in a comfortable body position.
- Make sure you stay well hydrated, especially on hot or humid days.
- If intact, metal roof sheeting is tested to hold a static weight of 110 kg. Make sure you do not exceed this weight at all times (especially while carrying tools).
- Make sure you do not overstress the underlying structure. If you have a helper on the roof, make sure you do not stand too close or on the same purlin.
- Keep an eye on the weather. If conditions deteriorate, make sure you secure all tools and materials and get off the roof.
- In case of an earthquake make sure you get off the roof as fast and safely as possible, and move out of the hazard zone as quickly as you can.

Protect others

- Watch out for tools, debris and other loose items on the roof. They can fall off the roof and injure other people, so please make sure everything is stowed away safely. Consider attaching toe boards to the edge of your working area to contain all falling material.
- Do not store tools or materials on the steps of a ladder.
- Isolate the area around your roof and make sure none comes close to potential hazard zones while you are up on the roof.
- At the end of the day, make sure you take all tools and materials with you, and clear the roof of any debris that could fall.

More information

This document is meant to be a brief guideline and is not meant to be complete. Please always make sure that you assess the risks before starting work on your roof. Eliminate the risks or keep them as minimal as possible. Asking a professional contractor to do the work for you is always the safest way to remove lead from your roof! This especially applies if welding or other hot work is required to fix your roof.

For more information, please visit the WorkSafe NZ website: www.worksafe.govt.nz

You might find these documents helpful:

- Roof restoration:
<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/working-at-height/roofs/roof-restoration-maintenance/>
- Working on roofs:
<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/working-at-height/roofs/>
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If in doubt – get a qualified roofer in!