

Interior demolition for remodeling

COMPANY

PROJECT / LOCATION

DATE

PREPARED BY

Remove interior finishes, partitions, and fixtures using a demolition hammer, reciprocating saw, and pry bars. Move debris through a chute into a dumpster without damaging structural supports or protected utilities.

Protective equipment

- Hard hat for falling debris.
- Safety glasses with side shields; add a face shield for flying fragments.
- Cut-resistant work gloves for sharp debris.
- Protective work boots for sharp debris and falling material.
- Earplugs or earmuffs when using the demolition hammer or saw.
- An employer-selected respirator when required for lead exposure, used under a respiratory protection program.

Before you start

- Confirm a competent person surveyed the structure before demolition starts: framing, floors, walls, risk of collapse, and any adjacent structure where workers may be exposed. Check that written proof of the survey exists.
- Confirm which walls and materials will be removed and which must stay. If the building was damaged by fire, flood, explosion, or another cause, make sure walls or floors are shored or braced before anyone works inside.
- Before demolition starts, confirm electric, gas, water, steam, sewer, and other service lines are shut off, capped, or otherwise controlled outside the building line, and each utility company involved was notified in advance. Lines kept in service must be relocated as needed and protected.
- Find out if surfaces to be demolished have lead paint or coatings. If they do, treat workers as highly exposed and use interim protection until an exposure assessment shows lower exposure. Confirm workers are trained on lead hazards and a respirator program covers anyone who must wear a respirator.
- Take damaged or unsafe hand tools out of use; check wooden handles for splinters, cracks, or looseness. Check the demolition hammer, saw, chute, and debris route before starting.

#	JOB STEP	HAZARDS	CONTROLS
1	Set up the work area and debris route.	Workers fall through existing floor or wall openings.	- Secure covers over floor openings not used for material drops, strong enough for any expected load. - Protect wall openings that present a fall hazard to a height of approximately 42 inches.

	Loose glass or debris cuts workers or blocks their escape route.	- Remove glass that could break into dangerous fragments before demolishing near it. - Clear passageways and stairs before moving tools or debris. - Keep other workers out of the demolition and debris-handling areas.
2 Remove fixtures and pry loose interior finishes.	A partition or attached material falls and crushes workers when its supports are removed. A pry bar slips or breaks, causing cuts or crushed fingers.	- Remove only the walls and materials marked for removal. - Support loose sections before releasing their attachments. - Keep workers out of the path of falling sections. - Remove damaged pry bars from use. - Set the bar securely before applying force. - Keep hands clear of pinch points and the bar's possible slip path.
3 Cut removable sections with the reciprocating saw.	The blade contacts hidden wiring or pipes, causing electrical shock or a gas or water leak. The moving blade or a falling cut section cuts or strikes a worker.	- Check inside the wall or ceiling for wiring and pipes before cutting. - Keep cuts away from service lines that stay in use. - Stop and have unidentified lines checked before proceeding. - Support the section so it cannot fall or pinch the blade. - Keep hands and coworkers clear of both sides of the cut. - Disconnect power before changing blades or clearing a jam.
4 Break out approved materials with the demolition hammer.	Breaking material weakens supports or sends fragments into nearby workers. Breaking materials with lead paint or coatings releases lead dust that workers can breathe or swallow.	- Do not break beams, columns, or bearing walls unless the supervisor confirms they are marked for removal. - Keep other workers outside the fragment path. - Wear safety glasses and a face shield during breaking. - Use dust collection suited to the tool and material to limit dust release. - Until the exposure assessment is done, use the interim lead protection your employer set up. - Wear the assigned respirator when it is required, fitted to you and kept clean under the respirator program.

5	Move debris through the chute into the dumpster.	Falling or rebounding debris strikes workers at the chute outlet or dumpster.	- Keep the chute discharge area closed to workers while debris is being dropped. - Stop loading before anyone approaches the outlet to clear debris. - Keep loads manageable and avoid forcing oversized pieces into the chute.
		Sharp, heavy debris causes punctures, cuts, or lifting strains.	- Keep scrap with protruding nails cleared from work areas and travel routes. - Use carts or shared lifts for bulky material. - Wear cut-resistant gloves when handling debris.
6	Clean the area and secure remaining openings.	Remaining scrap causes trips, punctures, or fire.	- Remove combustible scrap at regular intervals throughout the work. - Separate waste into collection containers and cover containers holding oily, flammable, or hazardous waste. - Clear work areas, passageways, and stairs before leaving.
		Workers entering later fall through an opening left by demolition.	- Secure load-supporting covers over floor openings no longer used for debris drops. - Restore protection at wall openings before others use the area.

Stop work and call the supervisor if

- Stop and call the supervisor if walls or floors shift, sag, or crack unexpectedly, or an unidentified structural member must be removed.
- Stop and call the supervisor if an unidentified or uncontrolled service line is exposed or damaged.
- Stop and call the supervisor if you find paint or coatings that may contain lead and no lead protections are in place, or if dust controls fail.
- Stop and call the supervisor if opening protection fails, the chute is damaged or blocked, or workers enter the debris discharge area.

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.850, Preparatory operations; 29 CFR 1926.62, Lead; 29 CFR 1926.301, Hand tools; 29 CFR 1926.25, Housekeeping

Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use. Not legal advice.

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COMPANY

PROJECT

DATE

REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)

REVIEW DATE

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