

HOW TO CLEAN LEAD DUST

Removing lead from your home is important to ensure the safety of yourself and your family. Lead can harm a child's growth, behavior, and ability to learn. Lead found in paint and older items in your home crumbles over time into dust. When this dust is inhaled or swallowed it is absorbed into the body where it can cause a number of health issues, especially for children. If you believe there may be lead dust in your home or car, there are ways you can clean it.

Cleaning should be performed regularly to prevent dust build-up. Heavily contaminated homes may require professional lead removal cleaning services. Pregnant women should never clean lead dust as it poses health risks to the mother and baby. **Prior to cleaning, make sure children and pets are removed from the area being cleaned. Wear old clothing that can be disposed of after use, facial mask, and plastic gloves.**

Hard Floors

Use a wet mop or a mop with disposable pads to clean hard surfaced flooring. **Never use a broom to sweep lead dust.**

When you mop, use the three-bucket mopping system:

- 1 Bucket of Mopping Solution
- 1 Bucket of Water to Rinse
- 1 Empty Bucket
- Use the mopping solution, squeeze excess water into the empty bucket, mop your floors, rinse the mop in the clean water, and then squeeze excess water into the empty bucket.

Start mopping from the furthest point in the room from the door and slowly work your way towards the door. Empty the buckets when they look dirty or with each new room. Flush the mop water, do not throw it outside. When done, dispose of the mop head in an outside trash can.

Carpeted Floors

Use a vacuum with a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter when cleaning carpeting flooring. Regular household vacuums release small particles back into the air, which can settle and remain in the home. Refrain from using bagless vacuums, canister vacuums without bags, or car wash vacuums. When done vacuuming, dispose of the vacuum bag or filter in the outside trash can.

Start vacuuming slowly from one side of the room to the other, and then again across the first path to create a checkered pattern. Steam-cleaning carpets is an effective alternative.

Rugs

Start vacuuming rugs slowly from one side of the room to the other, and then again across the first path to create a checkered pattern. Turn up half of the rug and vacuum the bottom and floor underneath, turn down and vacuum the top again. Repeat for the other half. For smaller rugs you can put them in the washer but wash them alone.

Cars

Car seats are one of the main contributors of take-home lead. To reduce its impact, clean your car regularly. For cloth seats treat it the same as carpets, using a vacuum with a HEPA filter regularly. For leather seats and children's car seats, vacuum and wipe down with wet wipes regularly.

Windowsills, Door Frames, and Other Surfaces

Clean from high to low with disposable paper towels or rags. Use all-purpose cleaner or water. **Do not use bleach. Do not mix chemicals.** Use a new paper towel with each area. Dispose all paper towels and any paint chips into the outside trash and wash hands.

Toys

For hard toys, wash carefully with paper towels and all-purpose cleaner, rinse with water, and allow to dry. For soft toys, put them in the washer as usual, but do not wash with any clothes or towels.