

LEAD-SAFE CLEANING

Reducing lead hazards in the home



WHY CLEAN LEAD SAFE?

Lead found in paint and older items in your home deteriorates over time into invisible dust. Lead dust clings to surfaces, including hands, toys and objects that children put in their mouths, putting them at increased risk for lead poisoning.

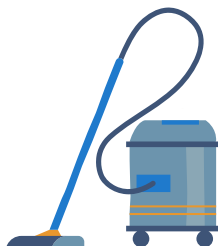
Lead is a neurotoxin and there is no safe level of lead in the body. Signs and symptoms of lead poisoning usually don't appear until dangerous levels have accumulated in the body.

Lead poisoning is 100% preventable. And how you clean your home can make all the difference. You can help protect your child from lead poisoning by hiring lead-safe certified contractors for renovations and by managing lead hazards, such as lead paint dust, by using **wet-cleaning techniques at least two times a week.**

USING A HEPA VACUUM

Always use a vacuum with a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter. A HEPA filter can remove very fine particles from the air at 99.97% efficiency with a size of 0.3 microns. Regular household vacuums release small particles of lead into the air, which spreads lead dust around rather than removing it.

Never use your household vacuum to clean up paint dust or chips from walls, floor, or windowsills.



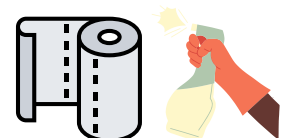
HOW TO CLEAN

Be sure to clean in and around windows, baseboards, doors, stairways and floors.

To avoid stirring up inhalable dust, clean hard surfaces with wet or damp disposable cloths. Another option is to use a spray bottle with water and paper towels to reduce dust.

Reminder: Always keep children and pregnant women away from cleaning area, and clean using wet methods – do not dry sweep in areas that may have lead dust.

- 1 Wear gloves.
- 2 Use a spray bottle to help reduce dust. Wash surfaces with all-purpose cleaner and wipe down well with a paper towel or disposable rag.
- 3 Use a new paper towel, or disposable rag, to clean each area. Do not use a sponge, which will only spread dust.
- 4 Put paper towels, or disposable rags, and any paint chips in a plastic bag. Close the bag tightly and throw it in the trash.
- 5 Wash your hands after cleaning.



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CLEANING HARD SURFACE FLOORS (THREE BUCKET METHOD)

Avoid sweeping, which moves lead dust around. If possible, HEPA vacuum the floor before wet mopping.

You can also use a wet mop with disposable wet cloths, such as a Swiffer, and replace wet cloths for each room. Dispose of the cloths in the trash after use.

- 1 Use three buckets: one for cleaning solution, one that remains empty, and a third one for the clean rinse water. Clearly label each bucket. Be sure to wear gloves while wet cleaning.
- 2 Soak a mop or disposable rag in bucket #1 with cleaning solution. Wash the area that needs to be cleaned with the mop or rag.
- 3 Squeeze the mop or rag into an empty bucket #2.
- 4 Rinse the mop or rag in bucket #3 with clean water with NO cleaner.
- 5 Keep mopping over the area as needed by repeating these steps. Once complete, flush ALL water down the toilet, clean mop and buckets, and dispose of rags in a sealed garbage bag.
- 6 For smaller or hard to reach areas, use a spray bottle with cleaning solution and wipe the floor with paper towels or a disposable rag. Throw the towels away in a plastic bag and close the bag tightly. Dispose in trash.

CLEANING CARPETS

Carpets should be vacuumed **at least two times a week** to keep dust and any other allergens at bay. Vacuum before you wet-dust, if possible. Any dust that does not get collected by the vacuum could resettle on surfaces and cause contamination.

- 1 HEPA vacuum carpet using the corner tool in corners, cracks of trim and edges of carpet.
- 2 Vacuum slowly in each direction (up and down, then side to side). If possible, vacuum when children will not be in the house for several hours.
- 3 All air filters require periodic cleaning and filter replacement to function properly. Follow manufacturer's recommendations on maintenance and replacement.
- 4 Put used vacuum bag or filter in outside trash when finished.

In addition to specialized cleaning, there are other actions you can take to reduce lead hazards in your home. Teach children to wash their hands often. This will remove lead dust from their hands. Hand washing should be done throughout the day but especially before meals, after playing and before naps and bedtime.

For more information, visit our webpage or call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 315-786-3730