

Cleaning Up Take-Home Lead Dust in your Home and Car

The most effective method for removing lead dust combines vacuuming and wet wiping.

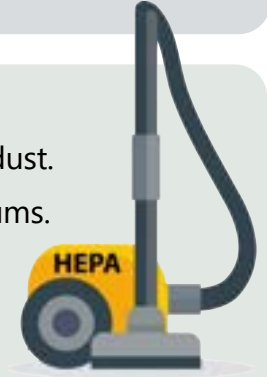
Follow the instructions below, first HEPA vacuum then wet clean surfaces.

Using a HEPA vacuum

Clean all horizontal surfaces with a HEPA vacuum. A HEPA vacuum is a vacuum cleaner designed with a **high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA)** filter. HEPA filters are 99.97% efficient. All air drawn into a HEPA vacuum cleaner must go through the HEPA filter with no air leaking past it.

Cleaning up lead from carpets

- Only use a vacuum with a HEPA filter and a beater bar. Not all vacuums will clean up lead dust.
- Do **NOT** use bag-less vacuums, canister vacuums without bags or filters, or car wash vacuums.
- Vacuum slowly. Vacuum the room in one direction, and then repeat in the other direction.
- Do **NOT** open or change the vacuum filter and bag inside the home.
- Put used vacuum bag or filter in **outside** trash when finished.
- Area rugs can be cleaned with same methods or machine washed separately. Clean both sides and under rugs.



Cleaning up lead from clothes and other soft items

- Curtains, clothing, bedding, and cushion covers exposed to lead, should be machine washed **separately** from items that were **NOT** exposed to lead.
- Use standard all-purpose detergent.
- Add **extra** rinse cycle before drying.
- Heavily contaminated furniture or mattresses should be thrown away.

Lead cleaning guidelines

- Pregnant women and children should **NOT** clean up lead dust.
- Remove children and pets from area while cleaning.
- Clean the highest surface first and work down. Work from cleanest areas to dirty. Clean floors last.
- Wear protection, such as gloves and a mask.

Cleaning up lead from hard surfaces

- Use the wet cleaning method.
- Use all-purpose cleaning detergent.
- Avoid using bleach.
- **NEVER** mix cleaners.
- See other side of this fact sheet for details on cleaning up lead from hard surfaces.



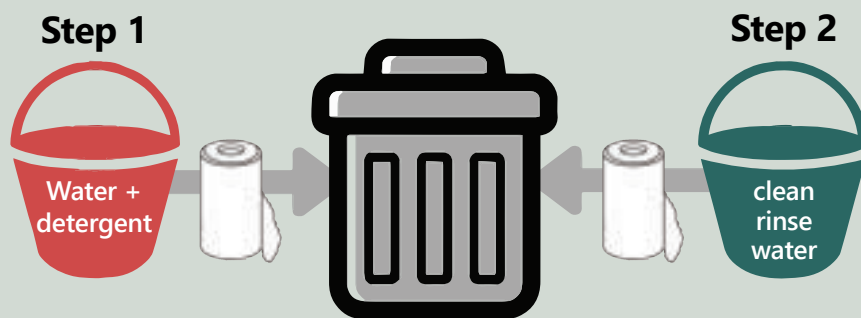
Cleaning up lead checklist (Clean the highest surfaces first):

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|
| Clean first: | <input type="checkbox"/> Walls | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelves | <input type="checkbox"/> Counter tops/tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Window sills/curtains |
| Then clean: | <input type="checkbox"/> Handles/knobs | <input type="checkbox"/> HVAC vents | <input type="checkbox"/> Dishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys (hard and soft) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Couches/chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Beds | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Child car seat |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Car steering wheel | <input type="checkbox"/> Car dashboard/doors | | <input type="checkbox"/> Pets |
| Clean last: | <input type="checkbox"/> Floors | <input type="checkbox"/> Doormats | <input type="checkbox"/> Rugs | <input type="checkbox"/> Car mats/rugs* |

**Consider replacing car rugs with plastic mats for easier cleaning.*

Cleaning up lead from small surfaces (window sills, counter tops, shelves)

- Use disposable paper towels, if possible.
- Use the method of clean, dispose, rinse, dispose.
- Change out water when it appears dirty.
- Flush dirty water down the toilet, **NOT** outside.
- Put used towels in outside trash when finished cleaning each room.
- Use all-purpose cleaning detergent.
- Avoid using bleach.



Cleaning up lead from large surfaces (uncarpeted floors)

- Prepare 3 buckets and a mop.



- Add all-purpose cleaning solution to **bucket 1** and use to mop surfaces.
- Wring out dirty water from mop in **bucket 2**.
- Fill **bucket 3** with clean, warm rinse water and use to remove soapy film with mop.
- Again, wring out dirty water from mop in **bucket 2**.
- When practical, start with cleanest areas and work to dirtiest areas.
- Dispose of mop head in outside trash can.
- Flush dirty water from **bucket 2** down toilet, **NOT** outside.



Other considerations

- For cleaner carpets consider steam cleaning after vacuuming.
- Clean surfaces regularly to prevent dust build-up.
- Heavily contaminated homes and cars require professional lead removal cleaning services.

For more information

- Contact your local health department to have your family tested for lead in their blood.
- Contact Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES) at (919) 707-5940.
- Contact Children's Environmental Health at (919) 707-5950.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health

For additional information about lead visit:
nchealthyhomes.com



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