

A Guide To Cleaning Up Lead Paint Chips and Dust

Step 1 - Supplies



Gloves, absorbent throw-away wipes or towels, garbage bags, spray bottle with liquid detergent and water, disposable towels and mop. Children should not be present while cleaning.

Step 2 – HEPA Vacuum



HEPA vacuum obtained from your local health department. A regular vacuum is NOT recommended. CAUTION: Do not open, change bag, or empty contents inside the home.

Step 3 – Wet Surfaces



HEPA* vacuum windows, floors, and porches, and then mist lightly with the soap solution. If a HEPA is not available, carefully remove dirt and paint chips with a wet towel. Replace towels until the surface is clean.

Step 4 – Clean Surfaces



Wipe surfaces clean by applying pressure. This has proven to be effective in removing lead dust.

* A HEPA vacuum has a high efficiency particulate air filter built in that catches fine lead dust. This filter catches up to 99% of the dust and dirt sucked into the vacuum. The HEPA vacuum should meet ANSI Z9.2 standards and OSHA and EPA regulations. Check the vacuum or owner's manual.

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Step 5 – Wipe Floors



Misting with the soap solution and then wiping with towels is the best way to remove lead dust.

Step 6 – Mop Floors



A second choice is to damp mop vinyl and wood floors with the soap solution. Start at the back of the room and work toward the exit door. This way is not as good as Step 5.

Step 7 – Bag It



Change towels often until no paint chips or dirt can be seen. Put them in a garbage bag, and seal with tape or a knot. The bag can be put out for normal trash pickup.

Step 8 – Clean Often



Do these steps often to protect your children from lead poisoning. They count on you for a lead-safe home to grow up healthy and smart.

Special acknowledgement to the Field Neurosciences Institute/Saint Mary's Hospital, Saginaw, Michigan for their contribution in the development of this cleaning guide.
January 2005