

Steps for Safe Lead Clean-Up in Your Home and Car

Lead Cleaning Guidelines

- Children and pregnant or nursing women should **not** perform lead cleaning.
- Remove all children and pets from area being cleaned.
- Clean the highest surface first and work down. Clean floors last.
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Avoid using bleach.
- **Never** mix cleaners.

Supplies Needed

- PPE – gloves, face masks, and eye protection
- Trash bags
- Plastic buckets
- Disposable/washable rags or paper towels
- Mop and washable mop heads
 - A mop with disposable mop heads (e.g. Swiffer) can be used
- All-purpose cleaner
- Vacuum with a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter or steam cleaner
- Spray bottle (*optional*)
- Disinfectant wipes (*optional*)



Prep Work

- Remove or cover all personal items and furniture in and around areas to be cleaned.
- Prepare two buckets. Fill one bucket with cleaning solution (all-purpose cleaner and water, mix according to directions on bottle) and the other with clean, warm water.
- **Note:** It may be easier to use spray bottles instead of buckets for smaller surfaces.



Pre-Cleaning

- Wearing PPE, pick up any large items and place in a double-bagged trash bag.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter to collect any remaining debris. HEPA filters remove 99.97% of all particles.
- **Note:** Use of non-HEPA vacuums, brooms, or dusters will cause lead dust to spread throughout the home.



Cleaning Small Surfaces

window sills, counter tops, shelves, tables

- Wet rag or paper towel thoroughly with the cleaning solution and wash the entire surface.
- Wet a new, clean rag or paper towel with the clean water and wipe the entire surface.
- **Note:** Disinfectant wipes can also be used instead of rags or paper towels.



Cleaning Large Surfaces

uncarpeted floors

- Dip the mop head in to the bucket with the cleaning solution and mop the entire surface.
- Put on a new, clean mop head. Wet the new mop head in the clean water bucket and do another pass over the entire surface.
- Dump, rinse, and re-fill the cleaning solution and clean water buckets before cleaning another room.
- **Note:** Flush dirty water down the toilet. Never pour dirty water in sinks, bathtubs, or outside.



Cleaning Carpet and Rugs

- Operators of the vacuum should wear PPE.
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter and pass over the carpet or rug twice. First in a vertical pattern (up and down), then again in a horizontal pattern (side to side).
- Repeat this in each room of the home.
- If no HEPA filter is available:
 - Clean the carpet and rugs with a steam cleaner.
 - Be sure to use a carpet cleaning solution first, vacuuming the carpet in a vertical then horizontal pattern. Repeat the process with clean water.
 - **Note:** Steam cleaning carpet and rugs is not as effective as a vacuum with a HEPA filter and should only be used in cases where a vacuum with a HEPA filter is unavailable.



Other Cleaning Tips

- Wet cleaning and vacuuming should be done on a weekly basis to prevent lead dust build-up.
- Wash any bottles, pacifiers, toys, or other child play items with soap and warm water.
- Do not let children play with any items known to contain lead or in areas with lead dust.
- Frequently wash children's faces and hands.
- Have any family pets washed regularly.
- The car interior should be cleaned weekly; use wet cleaning methods and a vacuum with a HEPA filter. Special attention should be paid to cleaning all items a child may come in contact with, such as car seats, toys, blankets, etc.



Post-Cleaning

- Continue to wear PPE during post-cleaning.
- Wash all clothing worn while cleaning up lead dust, cleaning rags, mops, rugs, shoes, etc. separately from general family items.
- Machine wash any curtains, clothing, bedding, and cushion covers that have been exposed to lead dust.
- All disposable items (gloves, face masks, wipes, etc.) need to be placed in a double-bagged trash bag and tightly sealed.
- This trash may be placed with your household garbage.
- Immediately after clean-up, wash your hands and face.
- **Note:** All lead contaminated items should be kept away from children and pets.



Toll Free Lead Hotline

1-866-4NO-LEAD (1-866-466-5323)

Information contained in this document was collected from educational materials generated by the Centers for Disease Control and the Environmental Protection Agency.



SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Work and Hobbies

Some jobs and hobbies pose a high risk for potential lead exposure. That does not mean you have to stop these activities, but there are precautions you should take.

- Wash your hands, shower, and remove clothing and shoes/boots **before** playing with or hugging your children or entering the home.
- Wash clothing separate from family items and keep out of reach of children. Wipe or clean shoes regularly.
- Other items that may be contaminated and require cleaning are: car interior, watches, glasses, keys, cell phones, jewelry, and other pocket items.
- If possible, do **not** transport children in the vehicle used for high risk jobs or hobbies.

Your job or hobby could be high risk if it involves:

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| • Ammunition/pellets | • Manufacturing |
| • Guns | • Mining |
| • Batteries | • Construction |
| • Fishing lure and tackle | • Renovation/home repair |
| • Pottery or ceramics | • Painting |
| • Stained glass | • Machine/automobile repair |
| • Key making | • Furniture sales or refinishing |
| • Welding | • Remediation services |
| • Plumbing | |

