

# 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.



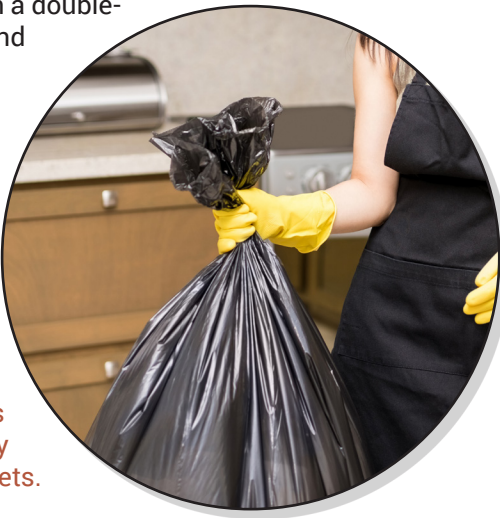
## Other Cleaning Tips

- 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.



## 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:

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

### 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.

