

How to Clean Take-home Lead from your Home and Vehicle

If you think your vehicle or home may be contaminated with lead:

- Have your family tested for lead in their blood.
- Consider hiring a lead removal professional. They can ensure your home is clean and safe.
- Call the SHARP Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology Surveillance (ABLES) program at 1-888-667-4277 or the Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) at 1-800-909-9898.

General lead cleaning guidelines

- Pregnant women should not clean lead dust because it is especially harmful to unborn babies.
- Remove children and pets from the area while cleaning.
- Protect yourself: Wear a NIOSH-Approved N100 Particulate Filtering Facepiece Respirator and rubber (dishwashing) gloves.
- Do not re-contaminate clean areas: Clean the highest surface first and work down. Clean floors last. Clean the farthest corner first and work towards the door.
- Be careful! The goal is to remove the lead, not move it around.

How to clean lead from hard surfaces

- All hard-surface should be cleaned with wet methods. Dry sweeping mixes dust back in the air.
- "Lead-specific", trisodium phosphate (TSP), or all-purpose cleaning detergents can be used to remove lead. Harsh cleaners like bleach should be avoided. NEVER mix cleaners.
- For small surfaces (including window sills, counter tops, shelves, etc.):
 - Use disposable microfiber, paper, shop towels, 1 bucket of water with detergent, 1 bucket of rinse water, and trash bags. Never contaminate rinse water with a dirty towel. Contaminated towels should be disposed of after a few wipes. Reusable sponges and cloths should not be used.



- Frequently refill buckets and pour waste water into household drains rather than outside where it may collect in soil.
- Avoid using electrostatic cloths (e.g. Dry Swiffer®) and pre-wetted wipes.
- Large, uncarpeted floors:
 - Follow directions for small surfaces. If using a mop, replace the trash can from above with an empty bucket to collect the contaminated cleaning and rinsing water from the mop(s).
 - Use a mop that can clean curves and corners (e.g. a string-style mop). Dispose of the waste water and used mop.

How to clean lead from carpets

- First, only use a vacuum with a "HEPA" or "allergy" filter bag. Not all dry vacuums will work. Do not use bag-less vacuums, canister vacuums without bags or filters, or car wash vacuums.
- Vacuum slowly and thoroughly. Vacuum the room in one direction, and then repeat in the other direction. An 8 foot x 10 foot room should take a minimum of 1 hour to dry vacuum. Dispose of the vacuum bag or filter.
- After dry vacuuming, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends steam cleaning with a product containing sodium hexametaphosphate (e.g. Calgon®) to help remove lead from the carpet.
- Area rugs can be cleaned with the same methods or machine washed separately. Clean both sides and under rugs.

How to launder clothes and other soft items

- Curtains, clothing, bedding, toys, and couch cushion covers should be machine washed separately from non-lead contaminated items. Use standard all-purpose detergent. Add an extra rinse cycle before drying.
- Heavily contaminated furniture, mattresses, and other soft items will need to be replaced.
- If a dry cleaner or home cleaning service is used, alert the cleaner that the items are lead contaminated.

Be sure to check surfaces after cleaning to make sure lead contamination was completely removed.

Heavily contaminated homes and cars require professional lead removal cleaning service.

Cleaning Checklist

- Floors & Walls
- Counter tops
- Window sills
- Tables
- Handles, knobs
- Curtains
- Rugs
- Couches & Chairs
- Beds
- Toys (hard and soft)
- Dishes
- Clothing
- Car mats and rugs
- Car/child safety seats
- Pets