

Cleaning Lead-Contaminated Dust National Center for Lead-Safe Housing - Fact Sheet #3

Why is special cleaning after working with paint important? How should it be done?

Who should use this fact sheet?

This fact sheet was developed for those involved with painting, home maintenance and renovation in housing built before 1978:

- *health and housing officials overseeing renovation*
- *painting and renovation contractors*
- *maintenance and property management workers*
- *families renovating or repainting their own homes*
- *providers of lead-safe maintenance and renovation training*

It can be used to supplement existing materials or serve as a checklist to verify that cleaning is done correctly.

Why is cleaning so important?

Young children exposed to lead-contaminated dust can become very sick. Lead can cause permanent brain and nerve damage and result in learning difficulties and behavior problems.

Cleanup after renovation, remodeling and painting has always been part of a good job. But normal cleaning steps do not always remove lead dust. Dangerous amounts of lead dust may remain unseen even if an area looks clean. In addition, workers may contaminate their cars and homes with lead from dust on their clothes and shoes, putting their own children at risk of lead poisoning.

Even after cleaning, the only way to know if dust lead levels are safe is to test. HUD regulations require such testing after a wide range of federally funded activities that disturb, scrape or sand paint in housing built before 1978. Fact Sheet #1 provides information about dust testing.

Small amounts of lead in dust can poison young children.

Dangerous levels of lead dust may remain after working with paint, even if a work site looks clean.

Workers may bring lead-contaminated dust home.

Cleaning protects children in homes where work is done, as well as children in the homes of workers.

Simple cleaning techniques reduce dust lead levels.

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How to Clean Lead Dust

Plastic sheeting should be installed *prior* to working with paint to stop the spread of dust. When working outside, burlap or fine mesh may be used. Fact Sheet # 2 describes how to use plastic sheeting to contain dust to the work area and how to use methods that create the smallest amounts of dust.

For jobs lasting more than one day, the work area should be HEPA-vacuumed and wet washed daily. For final clean up at the end of a job, follow all of the simple steps outlined below.

To clean lead dust after disturbing paint outdoors, follow the steps in #1 and then fold up plastic as described in #2.

1. Bag large debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Pick up large debris and paint chips.<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Use wet, disposable rags or paper towels.✓ Push into a dust pan, after misting with water.◆ Place in a heavy duty garbage bag.
2. HEPA vacuum work area from high to low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ HEPA vacuum all surfaces including the plastic, work clothes and work shoes. Include walls and ceilings.<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Work from high to low. Start with ceilings, walls, tops of doors and window troughs. Work your way down to the floor.◆ Fold up plastic floor covering.<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Mist plastic floor sheeting before folding.✓ Fold up plastic, keeping dirty side in. Tape shut to seal in dirty side. Place in double garbage bag.✓ Leave plastic over doorways and windows until all cleaning is completed and dust tests show lead dust levels are safe.◆ HEPA vacuum floor.
3. Wet clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Scrub all horizontal surfaces with household cleaner.<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Use disposable rags or paper towels sprayed with cleaner.✓ Work from high surfaces to low.✓ Replace rags or paper towels often.✓ Rinse all surfaces.◆ Wash the floor using a three bucket system.<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Use one bucket for cleaning solution, one for wringing out the mop or cloth, and one for rinsing.✓ Change rinse water often.
4. Final HEPA vacuum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ HEPA vacuum floors

Additional Resources:

To view HUD Materials on Lead-Safe Renovation:

HUD/CDC Lead Paint Safety: A Field Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance, and Renovation Work

Go to HUD Office of Lead hazard Control web site: <http://www.hud.gov/lea/LBPguide.pdf>

or

Call the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD

HUD Lead-Based Paint Training Program for Remodelers and Renovators

Go to HUD Office of Lead hazard Control web site:

http://www.hud.gov/lea/training/rr/HUD_RR_COURSE.html

Additional materials on safe painting and rehabilitation:

Go to the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning web site:

<http://www.aeclp.org/painting>

Go to the National Center for Lead-Safe Housing web site:

<http://www.lead safehousing.org>

To find Trained lead abatement professionals and local training requirements:

Call your state health department. Your state program contacts can be found at:

National Conference of State Legislatures
Lead Poisoning Prevention-State Contacts Directory

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/esnr/pbdir.htm>

National Lead Information Center
1-800-424-LEAD

Or go to www.leadlisting.org for a national listing of qualified individuals.

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