

CLEANING TO REMOVE LEAD DUST

The following cleaning methods are effective in removing interior household lead-contaminated dust. Following the initial treatment, cleaning must be repeated regularly to prevent the re-accumulation of lead-contaminated dust.

Cleaning with a High Efficiency Vacuum Cleaner

This procedure requires cleaning all horizontal surfaces with a vacuum cleaner equipped with a High Efficiency Particulate Air Filter (HEPA) or an equivalent high efficiency filter. Within a room, start with the highest horizontal surfaces and work down to the floor. Be sure to clean dust traps such as windows, radiators, air vents/registers and ceiling fans. When practical, work from the cleanest areas to the dirtiest areas to minimize spreading lead-contaminated dust to clean areas. Do not open or change the filters and bags inside the dwelling. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for routine maintenance, cleaning and filter changing.

Wet Cleaning

This procedure requires washing with two-buckets using clean rinse water and a detergent solution. Use the following method to clean surfaces.

- After mopping or wiping a small area, rinse the mop or disposable cloth in the first bucket containing rinse water before dipping in the second bucket containing the detergent solution.
- Repeat the rinse before dipping in detergent method in each area to be cleaned.
- When practical, work from the cleanest areas to the dirtiest areas to minimize spreading lead-contaminated dust to clean areas.
- Change the rinse water and detergent solution at least once per room.
- Clean until no surface dust is visible.

Combination

The most effective method for removing lead-contaminated dust combines vacuuming and wet wiping. Following the above instructions, first HEPA vacuum then scrub the entire unit.

Dust Removal from Carpets and Upholstered Furniture

Highly contaminated or badly worn carpets or upholstered furnishings should be discarded. Following the removal or replacement of lead-contaminated carpets or furnishings, floor surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned following the above instructions.

To clean area rugs: HEPA vacuum the topside with a beater bar or alligator attachment at a rate of one minute per square feet. Fold the rug in half and vacuum the backing of half the carpet without using the beater bar at a rate of one minute per 10 square feet. Vacuum the exposed floor beneath the carpet, the bottom of the carpet, and pad (if there is one), and fold the rug back into its original position. Repeat the process for the other half of the rug. Finally, vacuum the topside again with the beater bar at a rate of two minutes per 10 square feet.

For wall-to-wall carpeting: HEPA vacuum at a rate no faster than two minutes per 10 square feet in a side-to-side directions, followed by another pass at the same rate in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the first vacuuming, for a total of four minutes per 10 square feet. To attain an even higher level of cleanliness, steam clean the carpet using a regular commercial cleaning method after performing the HEPA vacuuming outlined above.

For more information on the control and removal of lead-contaminated dust, contact the Children's Environmental Health Branch of DENR at (888) 774-0071 (toll free lead poisoning hotline) or (919) 715-3293.