

Lead Cleaning Guide

Follow these directions to clean up the lead paint chips and dust around your home. This cleaning must be done often to make your home safer for your family.

Step 1: Tools for Cleaning Lead Paint Chips and Dust

Rubber Gloves



Mop



Spray Bottle



Plastic Garbage Bags



HEPA Vacuum



Paper Towels, Rags, and Tack Cloth



Cleaner



3 Buckets



Step 2: Getting Ready to Clean

1. Do not vacuum unless you have a HEPA vacuum cleaner. Do not sweep.
2. Put on rubber gloves. Pick up all big paint chips first. Put the paint chips in a plastic garbage bag.
3. Mist the smaller chips with water using the spray bottle. Use a paper towel or rag to pick up the chips. Put the chips and the paper towel or rag in the plastic garbage bag.
4. Prepare three buckets: One with cleaning solution (follow directions on cleaner), another with clean water, and leave the third one empty.



Cleaner



Water (Change Often)



Empty

Step 3: Cleaning One Room at a Time

Hard Surfaces: Start from the top of the room first and work down to the floor. Start as far away as you can from the door and work your way back to the door.

1. Wet your rag or mop with the cleaning solution.
2. Wipe the surface with the damp rag or mop.
3. Rinse the rag or mop in the bucket filled with water.
4. Squeeze the extra water out of the rag or mop into the empty bucket.
5. Repeat Steps 1-4 until you cleaned all the areas.
6. Empty all the buckets into the toilet bowl.
7. Fill one of the buckets with clean water. Rinse each area you cleaned .
8. Put used gloves, rags and paper towels in the plastic garbage bag. Tie the bag and throw it away.
9. Use a tack cloth on areas that are hard to reach such as radiators and corners.



Carpets: Use a HEPA vacuum only with a beater/agitator attachment.

1. Vacuum only in one direction—top to bottom. Then vacuum the opposite direction—left to right.
2. Take your time vacuuming. An area that is 2 feet by 5 feet should take you about 10 minutes.
3. Consider hiring a carpet cleaning company with truck mounted cleaning equipment. The truck cleaning equipment is more powerful.



Scatter Rugs:

1. Follow steps 1-3 under carpets, above.
2. Vacuum the top of the rug.
3. Fold the rug in half and vacuum the back of the rug slowly for about one minute.
4. Vacuum the floor under this part of the rug.
5. Repeat for the other side of the rug, then vacuum the top of the rug again.
6. Wash scatter rugs in a washing machine with a detergent that has 5% phosphate. Do not put any other items in with this wash.

Be proud of your hard work...your clean home is now safer for you and your family!

***Questions? Call Onondaga County Health Department
Lead Poisoning Control Program at 435-3271***



**Onondaga County
Health Department**
www.ongov.net