

Lead can litter your home through chipped paint, lead dust, and in some areas, mining waste, putting you and your family at risk. You can lower the risk of lead exposure by keeping your home clean, and by washing your child's hands and toys regularly. Depending on the material of the toy, they can be washed in the laundry machine or with soap and water.

### Cleaning methods include:

1

Wet washing with two buckets

2

Cleaning with a HEPA vacuum

These two methods are most effective if used at least once a week. Instructions can be found inside this brochure.

### Guidelines for effective cleaning:

- Keep pregnant women and children away from the cleaning process.
- Clean from the highest level in a home down to the lowest level.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Change buckets as they become dirty or when starting in a new room.
- Flush dirty water down the toilet, not down the drain or outside.



## MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF **HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES**

Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

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# LEAD CLEANUP AROUND YOUR HOME

## Checklist for supplies:

- PPE: gloves, face masks, eye protection
- Trash bags
- Plastic buckets
- Rags or paper towels
- Mop and washable mop heads (can also use disposable mop heads, e.g. Swiffer)
- All-purpose cleaner
- HEPA filter vacuum
- Disinfectant wipes (optional)

## Pre-cleaning:

1. Remove or cover personal items and furniture in the areas to be cleaned.
2. Prepare two buckets:



### Bucket #1:

Cleaning solution (all-purpose cleaner and water, according to directions).



### Bucket #2:

Clean, warm water to rinse the cleaning solution off surfaces.

## Wet Cleaning small areas (window sills, counters, shelves, tables):

1. Wet a rag with cleaning solution and wash entire surface (disinfectant wipes may be used instead).
2. Wet a rag with clean, warm water and wipe entire surface.
3. Dump, rinse and refill the buckets when moving to a new room.

## Wet Cleaning large areas (uncarpeted flooring):

1. Mop the entire flooring surface with the cleaning solution.
2. Put on a clean mop head and mop the entire flooring surface again with the clean, warm water.
3. Dump, rinse and refill the bucket when moving to a new room.

## Cleaning with a HEPA vacuum:

- Always clean with vacuum with a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filter.
  - Household vacuums cannot pickup or hold lead dust, so it is blown into the air.
  - HEPA vacuums can be rented or purchased online or in stores.
1. Using the HEPA vacuum, pass over the carpet or rug twice, in a vertical pattern (up and down), then again in a horizontal pattern (side to side)
  2. Vacuum under rugs as well.
  3. Repeat this in each room of the home.
  4. If no HEPA vacuum is available, clean carpet and rugs with a steam cleaner. It is not as effective as a HEPA vacuum.



## After cleaning:

1. Wash all clothing worn, cleaning rags, mops, rugs and shoes separately from general family laundry.
2. Machine wash curtains, bedding and cushion covers that have been exposed to lead dust.
3. All disposable items should be double-bagged, tightly sealed and immediately placed in the garbage dumpster.
4. Immediately wash your hands and face.



## Important things to remember:

- Wet cleaning and vacuuming should be done weekly to prevent buildup.
- Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys and other child play items with soap and warm water.
- Do not let children play with items known to contain lead dust.
- Frequently wash child's hands and face.
- Wash family pets regularly.
- Wash work clothes separately from regular household laundry
- Car interiors should be cleaned weekly, using the same wet cleaning methods and HEPA vacuum.