





# Lead-Safe Cleaning Tips



If your home was built before 1978, it is important to be aware of the potential risk of lead paint. Lead paint was commonly used in homes until it was banned in 1978 due to health risks. One way to decrease lead exposure is to properly clean areas in your home that may contain lead paint or dust.

It is recommended to clean your home once a week using a clean, wet or damp cloth, sponge, or mop to minimize dust, which may contain lead.

	Location	Do	Don't
	<b>Uncarpeted Floors</b> (wood, vinyl, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a wet mop and an all-purpose cleaner.</li> <li>Clean with a vacuum cleaner if there are no visible dust or debris from chipping or peeling paint.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mop with scrubber strip attached</li> <li>Power buff or use polishing machines or vacuums with beater bars that may wear away the paint surface.</li> </ul>
	<b>Carpets and Rugs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a wet rag or use steam cleaning methods to remove stains.</li> <li>Clean with a vacuum cleaner if no visible dust or debris from chipping or peeling paint is present.</li> <li>If paint chips are present, use a HEPA vacuum rated for lead dust.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dry sweep the surface dust and debris.</li> <li>Shake or beat carpets and rugs.</li> <li>Use a regular vacuum cleaner if paint chips are present.</li> </ul>
	<b>Walls and Other Painted Surfaces (including windows)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean with a soft, disposable, wet cloth or paper towel with an all-purpose cleaner</li> <li>Put duct tape or contact paper over peeling paint and plaster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use steel wool, scouring pads, and abrasive cleaners</li> <li>Apply solvent cleaners that may dissolve paint.</li> <li>Excessively rub spots to remove them.</li> </ul>
	<b>Toys</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash all toys daily (and other items like pacifiers and bottles) that your child uses regularly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let your child chew on painted toys.</li> <li>Put toys and other items your child uses regularly by doors and windows that are opened frequently</li> </ul>



# Additional Tips

- Keep children away when cleaning. Do not clean if you are pregnant.



- Use gloves when cleaning.



- Pick up all chips by hand or use a damp paper towel. Window areas tend to have a lot of paint chips.
  - Seal chips and paper towels in plastic bag and throw in garbage (out of child's reach).
  - Do not use a regular vacuum and broom to clean up lead paint chips or dust.



- Use a spray bottle to keep dust levels down.



- Use two separate sets of disposable rags or paper towels—one set for the washing step and one set for the rinse step. This is very important, so the lead dust doesn't end up on the surface you are cleaning.
- Use 2 buckets for cleaning (one for dirty water and one for clean water).
  - Use clean water and paper towels for rinsing each area



- Use paper towels as they can be thrown out after use.
  - Seal the used paper towels in a plastic bag and throw them in the garbage one finished
  - If you have to use clothes, use disposable ones that can be thrown in the garbage after use.



- Pour any leftover water used for cleaning down the toilet (not outside, a sink, or a bathtub).
- Put all rags, paper towels, and paint chips in a double thick garbage bag. Seal the bag. Keep the bag out of reach of children and pets.



- Wash your hands when cleaning is done.

