

# Cleaning Up Lead Dust in Your Home

Lead dust from chipped paint and other items with lead in your home can put you and your family at risk for lead poisoning. Lower the risk of lead exposure by keeping your home clean and washing your child's hands, face, and toys regularly. Some toys can be washed in the washing machine. Other toys can be wiped down by hand with soap and water. If you live in a home built before 1978 and you plan to renovate, repair or paint it, visit: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).



## Effective cleaning methods

There are two effective cleaning methods that will remove lead dust from your home:

1. Wet washing
2. Cleaning with a special HEPA vacuum

The most effective cleaning method combines vacuuming and wet washing at least once a week. Turn this page over for instructions.

## Housekeeping tips:

- Run an extra rinse cycle after washing lead-contaminated clothes and rags in the washing machine
- Clean your home in small sections from cleanest to dirtiest
- Do not dry sweep. Spray the floor with cleaning solution or water, then use a disposable cloth sweeper

## Cleaning supplies checklist:

- HEPA vacuum
- Non-toxic household cleaner
- 2 buckets
- Disposable rags
- Heavy duty trash bags
- Rubber gloves
- Disposable cloth sweeper



Learn more:  
[www.vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/leadsafe/)

**VDH** VIRGINIA  
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OF HEALTH

  
Virginia Childhood Lead  
Poisoning Prevention Program

# Wet washing method

## Step 1: Wash

1. Wear rubber gloves and mix cleaning solution in one bucket and fill the other bucket with clean water
2. Wet a sheet of disposable rag in the bucket of cleaning solution. Wipe down surfaces such as window sills, window wells, door frames, walls, and floors
3. Throw away the dirty rag after every use to avoid contaminating the bucket of cleaning solution



## Step 2: Rinse

1. Wet a new sheet of disposable rag in the bucket of clean rinse water and wipe down the surface you washed
2. Throw away the dirty disposable rag after each use to avoid contaminating the bucket of clean rinse water
3. When you are done, pour the buckets of rinse water and cleaning solution down the toilet. Do not pour dirty water into the sink or bathtub because it may increase the risk of being in contact with lead



## Cleaning with a HEPA vacuum

- Always clean with a special vacuum cleaner called a High Efficiency Particulate Air Filter (HEPA) vacuum
- Never use a regular household vacuum because it cannot pick up and hold smaller pieces of lead dust
- HEPA vacuums can be rented or purchased online and in stores
- Vacuuming at least once a week is recommended

