



# Facts About Lead Safe Cleaning

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board - Lead Hazard Reduction Program  
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## Cleaning Window Wells, Sills, and other surfaces

- For heavy contamination, pick up any large paint chips with damp paper towel. Mist then push dust and debris into dustpan.
- HEPA vacuum all horizontal surfaces **very slowly**. Vacuum all ledges, sills, stools, molding tops, or other surfaces where dust collects.
- Wet towels with detergent then wring out or mist surface or towel as you clean. Lead needs scrubbing, not just wiping. Repeat process until there is no visible dirt on towels. Do not re-dip dirty towels into detergent, you will contaminate the solution. Throw dirty towels away.

## Cleaning Floors- Carpet

- HEPA Vacuum floors using corner tool in corners, cracks of trim, and between floor boards. Use a vacuum with a carpet tool or a vibrating or power carpet head.
- Important: Vacuum carpets **very slowly**. Allow the vacuum time to bring dust from the deepest parts of the carpet.
- Vacuum the room in one direction for the first pass then vacuum the room in a direction that is 90 degrees from the original direction for the second pass.

## Cleaning Floors – Hard Surfaces

- HEPA Vacuum floors using corner tool in corners, cracks of trim, and between floor Boards.
- Use more than one bucket, one for rinsing, and one for wringing. At start of cleaning, soak mop in detergent water then mist small area with detergent before mopping.
- Scrub with mop. Squeeze mop into empty bucket then rinse in rinse water. Rinse often.
- Squeeze out and rinse again. Mop small areas at a time.
- If cleaning after renovation, wipe the floor dry with disposable towels
- Repeat above process using clean water rather than detergent. When cleaning up a work site, use a new mop head for rinse stage.

## Don't do this

- Don't dry sweep
- Don't use a shop vacuum or a vacuum without a HEPA filter
- Don't change vacuum cleaner bags inside.

