

Subject:

How to clean the classroom that has Lead-Contaminated Dust

Performance Objective:

Lead dust and chips from lead-based paint are the most common source of lead poisoning. As lead-based paint ages, it can deteriorate (chip, crack, peel) because of weathering. It can also be broken down by friction from surfaces rubbing together such as in windows, doors and stairways, or from bumping furniture, toys, and vacuum cleaners into painted surfaces. Lead dust is so fine that it cannot be seen.

Any home built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. The older your home is, the more likely it is that it contains lead-based paint. The amount of lead added to paint was greatly reduced in the 50's and 60's, but lead was still used in some paint until 1978.

- Pregnant women must not clean up lead dust. Lead dust can harm the developing baby
- Remove children and pets from the rooms being cleaned

Operational Procedure:

TO CLEAN HARD SURFACES:

1. Put on plastic, rubber, or latex gloves
2. Pick up large paint chips and place them into a plastic trash bag. Use a tack cloth, masking tape or duct tape to pick up small lead paint chips. Do not attempt to make repairs to chipped and peeling lead-based paint yourself without the proper equipment and instructions. Never dry-sand or scrape lead-based paint. This will create more lead dust
3. Wet mop and clean at least once a week. Use disposable paper towels as much as possible. If you must use fabric dust cloths, sponges or mops, be sure they are only used for lead dust clean-up. Do not use them for any other purpose
4. Prepare three (3) buckets: Cleaning solution, empty bucket, rinse water
5. Add cleaning solution and water to the first bucket and use this to wash down surfaces and mop floors. (You do not need special detergents to remove lead dust. Ordinary cleaning products will work)
6. The second bucket will be empty so you can squeeze dirty water from the rag, sponge or mop into it after you clean surfaces. (If using paper towels, throw the used paper towels into a trash can that is out of reach of children)
7. Fill the third bucket with warm rinse water and wipe down surfaces and floors again to remove any soapy water film
8. Wring the rag, sponge or mop out into the middle bucket, or if using paper towels, throw them away.
9. Clean one room at a time
10. Work from the top down

11. Clean the highest surfaces first and work your way to the floor
12. Always start at the farthest corner of the room and work your way to the door
13. Clean the floor last
14. The dirty water in the buckets can be flushed down the toilet
15. Make new buckets of cleaning solution and clean warm rinse water
16. Get a clean rag, sponge or new paper towels
17. Move to another room and repeat steps
18. Continue until all rooms have been cleaned

See the EPA booklets *Protect your Family from Lead in your Home*, *Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling your Home*, and *Lead Paint Safety*. The Department of Health also has a pamphlet on special lead-based paint encapsulants. Pregnant women, young children and pets should not be in the home while the repairs are being done. They must stay away until the clean-up after the repair work is finished.

TO CLEAN CARPETS AND RUGS

1. To clean wall-to-wall carpets:
2. An older vacuum cleaner with a cloth bag is NOT suitable for cleaning a lead dust-contaminated house. Dust can pass through the cloth bag and resettle in the house

Use a HEPA (high efficiency particle air) filter vacuum cleaner, if possible. If a HEPA vacuum is not available, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that conventional vacuum cleaners be used with "HEPA-type" or "allergy" filter bags, to remove more fine dust particles from carpets and indoor air. Although these bags have not been scientifically tested for lead dust removal, they are designed to pick up smaller particles than standard vacuum cleaner bags.

3. Vacuum the rug from top to bottom and then left to right. Spend 10 minutes vacuuming a small area
4. Rugs can then be steam cleaned. The EPA notes that adding sodium hexametaphosphate (which is found in products such as Calgon)* to the cleaning solution increases the amount of lead removed from the carpets by steam cleaning.
5. To clean scatter rugs: Wash scatter rugs in a washing machine. Do not put in any other clothes or linens. Use an All-purpose laundry detergent

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