



### Health effects of lead poisoning

Lead interferes with the development and functioning of almost all body organs, particularly the kidneys, red blood cells, and the central nervous system.

Lead poisoning is much more serious when children are exposed to lead, since their bodies are not fully developed. Lead poisoning can cause:

- Restlessness
- Hearing loss
- Loss of IQ
- Learning or behavior problems
- Developmental delays
- Brain, liver, and kidney damage

Because the symptoms of lead poisoning are similar to those of flu or viruses, the only way to know if a child is poisoned is to have a doctor perform a simple blood test.

For more information about the health effects of exposure to lead, call 1-888-242-1100 or visit:

<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/lead>

### For more information

If you would like more information regarding lead dust cleanup and control, please contact us at:

### Office of Environmental Health Hazards & Indoor Air

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services  
301 Centennial Mall South  
PO Box 95026  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

**(402) 471-0386 or  
1-888-242-1100**

[www.dhhs.ne.gov/lead](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/lead)

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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# LEAD DUST

## Clean-Up and Control

To help reduce risk of lead contamination

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services  
Division of Public Health

# Finding hazards in your home

Look for paint or stain that is loose, cracked, chipping, peeling, flaking, rubbing off, or deteriorating in any way.

When paint chips off, all layers of paint usually come off together. This can cause lead poisoning because older layers of paint may contain lead—even if the surface has been repainted with lead-free paint.

## Window hazards

- Check the sides and upper parts of the window.
- Check the area between the interior window and screen.
- Check the window sash.
- Check the sill and window for:
  - Peeling
  - Chipping
  - Toys or other signs of child play
  - Chew Marks

## Woodwork, walls, and doors

- Check all surfaces for chipping and peeling paint.
- Look for impact chipping on corners of door frames, baseboards, and walls.
- Look for rub or scrape marks on door edges.

## Stair and porch hazards

- Check for areas of chipping or peeling paint.
- Look for chewing on spindles, rails, treads, and edges.
- Check risers, baseboards, and stair tread for impact chipping.
- Look for worn areas on tread.



## Finding hazards from outside

Lead dust can come in from outside the home. Contaminated dust or soil can be tracked in on shoes, animals, or the wind. Soil can be contaminated from:

- Deteriorated lead-based paint around the perimeter drip line of the house
- Leaded additives in gasoline
- Industrial sources
- Demolition and paint removal from surrounding buildings

## Lead can be brought home from work

Some examples include:

- Sanding, scraping or blasting lead-based paint
- Contractors who renovate/repair older homes
- Foundry workers and metal recyclers
- Making ammunition, firing guns, or working at a shooting range

## Reduce the risk of lead hazards by:

- Not letting children or pets play in bare soil around perimeter of house
- Bare soil should be covered with grass, mulch, gravel, sand or other landscaping materials
- Put out doormats and remove shoes to not track lead dust into the home
- Maintaining good housekeeping
- Not wearing your work clothes home if you work with lead
- Wash your hands often

## Cleaning up lead dust

1. Correct lead hazards before starting any dust cleanup to prevent further contamination.
2. While wearing rubber or disposable latex gloves, use paper towels and an all-purpose cleaner to wet-wipe all horizontal surfaces, changing towels as necessary.
3. Floors should be cleaned using the same procedure as stated above, but using a Swiffer-type handle and changing the disposable towels on the head as necessary.
4. Place all contaminated paper towels in a plastic bag immediately after use and deposit in the household trash container.

*Lead dust can become so ingrained in a carpeted surface that the only way to completely decontaminate some carpeted surface areas is through removal and replacement. If disposal is not an option, use an RRP approved HEPA vacuum that is specifically designed to clean up lead contaminated dust by slowly and methodically vacuuming the carpet from one end of the room to the other. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends after vacuuming to steam clean the carpet with a product containing sodium hexametaphosphate. Steam cleaning may need to be done more than once.*

