

# How to Clean Your Windows in a Lead-Safe Way

Lead-based dust can collect in window wells when they are not cleaned very often. This dust can enter your home when the windows are opened. Clean your windows once a week to prevent lead dust from entering your home. Repeat these steps for every window in your home.

## 1. Put on disposable gloves.



## 2. Wipe up paint chips.



Use a wet, disposable cloth such as a baby wipe or damp paper towel to clean your windows. If you don't have disposable baby wipes, you can use paper towels and all-purpose cleaner. If you don't have paper towels, cut old towels or rags into small sizes.

Use the wipe to collect paint chips or other large debris that is inside the window well.

Throw away the wipe and the debris together in a disposable trash bag, using each wipe only once. Use more than one wipe if necessary.

Use a different towel or rag piece for each window cleaned. Once done, throw away all towel or rag pieces.

## 3. Wipe up paint dust.



After paint chips are removed, use another wipe to collect dust inside the window well. Be sure to clean the corners and inside crevices.

## 4. Wipe under the window sash.



Use another wipe to clean underneath the window sash.

## 5. Wipe the windowsill.



Use another wipe to clean the windowsill.

## 6. Take off gloves & throw them away.



After the window is cleaned, remove gloves by turning them inside out. This traps any lead dust that may be on them. Throw them away.

## 7. Seal the trash bag.



The trash bag needs to be carefully sealed so it won't release lead dust. Slowly cinch the top of the trash bag together, then twist it. Fold the twist in half and use tape around the twist to seal the bag. Throw it away in an outside trash can or dumpster.

## 8. Wash your hands.

Always wash your hands after cleaning any possible lead hazard. Use soap and warm water, scrubbing your hands for at least 30 seconds.



### Other things you can do:

You can use a special type of vacuum cleaner called a HEPA vacuum to remove paint chips and dust from your home. HEPA vacuums have a special filter that prevents the spread of airborne dust. Call the SSCHC Lead Program (414-897-5592) to have someone come to your home with a HEPA vacuum, or you can borrow one from the City of Milwaukee Health Department (414-286-3451.)

## RESOURCES

City of Milwaukee Health Department  
National Lead Information Center Hotline  
Milwaukee Lead Asbestos Information Center

414-286-2165  
1-800-424-LEAD (5323)  
414-481-9070



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