

Instruction for Use of a HEPA Vacuum

The vacuum comes with the following attachments, please make sure they are all returned with the vacuum when you borrow it:

- Vacuum unit
 - Crevice nozzle
 - Power cord
 - Paddle nozzle
 - Hose with sleeve
 - Small comb nozzle
 - Extension tube
 - Combination nozzle
- **Use this vacuum only for general indoor household cleaning.** It is not intended to be used for clean-up during or after lead hazard control work or any other intentional disturbance of painted surfaces. It is also **not** intended to use for clean up of renovation and construction debris.
 - **This vacuum is never to be used for clean up of asbestos, mercury, or other hazardous materials.**
 - **Do not vacuum water or any other liquids.** This is not a wet/dry vacuum and liquids will cause extensive damage.
 - Avoid picking up large or heavy objects which might puncture the vacuum bag.
 - The vacuum has been equipped with a fresh bag which should be sufficient for your usage. Please do not open the machine or remove the bag. If you feel the bag needs to be changed, contact Allen County CLPP at the number below.
 - Don't try to change the filter. Our staff will clean the vacuum and change the filters once it is returned.
 - Avoid removing the hose from the base unit, as this will expose the contents of the bag and increase the chance of dirt falling out. If hose needs to be removed for transportation or storing then carefully remove the hose and tape over the hose opening.
 - Detach the power cord (if detachable) from the vacuum when transporting or storing.
 - If the machine does not operate in the way you expect, call us and explain the situation. **Do not attempt to service the machine.**

Visit the
Allen County CLPP's
website at www.allencounty-clpp.com
for links to lead-related websites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
260-449-8600

Allen County

C L P P

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

www.allencounty-clpp.com

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Fort Wayne, IN 46802
260-427-1391 fax

Using a HEPA Vacuum



LEAD POISONING

THE EFFECTS CAN BE DEVASTATING

Test your Home. Test your Child.

What Is a HEPA Vacuum and How Do I Use It?

- A HEPA vacuum is a tool available to homeowners and renters useful in cleaning lead-contaminated surfaces in the home.
- HEPA vacuums differ from regular household vacuums because they have a special filter that traps very fine dust particles that are too small to see. This filter is called a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter.
- HEPA vacuums are helpful in removing lead dust from homes. The use of different attachments allows for more specific cleaning. The extension tube can assist in reaching high places and a special attachment assists while cleaning carpets and rugs.
- Vacuuming with a regular household vacuum will not remove small dust particles in the home that can poison children. Much of the dust that is picked up is blown back out the exhaust of the vacuum, which resettles on toys, furniture, and floors where small children become exposed. Regular vacuums don't remove lead dust.
- Many items inside the home can be cleaned using a HEPA vacuum, including ceilings, walls, floors, windows, interior and exterior window sills, doors, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment (heating diffusers, radiators, pipes, vents), fixtures of any kind (light, bathroom, kitchen), built-in cabinets, and appliances.
- Don't let children touch or play with HEPA vacuums.
- If using a HEPA vacuum for the first time, the following cleaning method is recommended:

HEPA Vacuum Cleaning Process

- First, collect any visible debris using wet cloths or a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter before mopping or cleaning. Once you have used the HEPA vacuum, follow up by wet washing hard surface (floor not carpet.) See below for Wet Washing Cleaning Guidelines for Hard Surfaces. After surfaces have dried from wet washing, use the HEPA vacuum a final time. Use this three-step process to clean one room in the house at a time before moving on to another. Follow up with a regular cleaning schedule using a HEPA vacuum.
- There is a special method for using the HEPA vacuum itself to most effectively remove lead dust from any room in the house. If the whole house is being HEPA vacuumed for the first time, start in the room farthest from the main entrance/exit door so that dirt is not tracked into areas that have already been HEPA cleaned. Then vacuum from room to room, working toward the main exit door and finish there. If only one room is being HEPA vacuumed, work from the farthest area from the door and finish at the doorway.
- In each room, begin HEPA vacuuming at the top of each room (ceiling, walls, and top shelves) and work down to the floor. Do every inch of the windows, especially in the window well where the moveable part of the window rests when it is closed. Use special attachments to clean hard-to-reach areas such as baseboards, cracks in the floor boards, walls and woodwork. Move the HEPA vacuum slowly and carefully over surfaces so it can pick up all of the lead dust.

Wet Washing Cleaning Guidelines for Hard Surfaces

Items needed: cloths, mops or sponges, three buckets, cleaning product*, disposable bags

- Collect any visible debris using wet cloths or a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter before mopping or cleaning. Fill three buckets with clean, hot water. One bucket should contain a mix of hot water and a recommended cleaning product. The second and third buckets should contain hot rinse water.
- After first dipping the cloth, mop or sponge into the detergent water mix (bucket #1), vigorously mop up a small portion of the floor or hard surface you are cleaning, and rinse the cloth by squeezing it in bucket #2. Then dip the cloth in bucket #3 to ensure it is completely clean before dipping it again into bucket #1 that contains your cleaning water.
- Clean the second portion of the floor or hard surface you are cleaning and continue in this cycle until the room has been completely cleaned. Change the water in the buckets periodically.
- **Remember that surfaces should be scrubbed in one direction (left to right, or right to left) only, rather than with a back-and-forth motion. Similarly, all vertical surfaces—such as walls, window trim, and stairs—should be cleaned from the top down.**
- Once cleaning with the detergent has been completed for the room, pour the old rinse water from bucket #3 down the toilet, wash the bucket, and fill it with clean, hot rinse water. Using a new cloth, sponge or mop, rinse the cleaned surfaces.
- If you have a vacuum cleaner that has a HEPA filter on it, run that over all cleaned surfaces.

*Recommended cleaning product may include ¼ cup automatic dishwasher detergent to 1 gallon of water.

The Allen County Childhood Lead Prevention Program has a HEPA vacuum loan program — contact 260-449-8600.