

## Site Cleanup

1. Dispose of **all** construction trash in a 6 mil poly bag. Carefully remove any plastic sheeting used to protect surfaces by folding inward.
2. Vacuum walls and floors with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner capable of removing 99.97% of dust at 0.3 microns.
3. Wet wash floors, walls, and entire work area with a detergent solution and water using a disposable mop. Change water frequently.
4. Clean your vacuum and tools well.
5. Remember to clean out your entire work vehicle, including truck cabs.



For more information on reducing the risks of lead poisoning, visit:  
[health.ny.gov/environmental/lead](http://health.ny.gov/environmental/lead)  
[www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead)

**You can be exposed to lead any time you breathe lead dust or lead fumes, or by swallowing anything that contains lead.**

**The highest risk is in homes built prior to 1978. The older the home, the more likely it is to contain lead-based paint.**

**Following the appropriate remodeling safety procedures when removing carpet can help protect everyone.**

**Keep children and pregnant women away from the work area until final clean up is completed.**

To inquire about the Madison County Health Department's HEPA vacuum loan program, call the Environmental Health Division at 315-366-2526.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Prevent Division**  
**315-366-2848**  
[healthymadisoncounty.org](http://healthymadisoncounty.org)

# Avoid Lead Poisoning Risks When Removing Carpeting



**Madison County Health Department**

**Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

## Lead Poisoning is 100% Preventable



### The Dangers of Lead

Lead is highly toxic. Lead poisoning is a serious concern, especially for infants, toddlers, young children, pregnant women, and adults who work around lead.

If not detected early, high levels of lead in the blood can cause permanent damage to the brain and nervous system, hearing loss, and learning and behavior problems in young children.

New research has shown that even low blood lead levels can affect children's behaviors. Children with low levels of lead poisoning are more likely to have issues with anxiety, emotion, and delayed social skills. They may also have pervasive developmental problems, such as avoiding eye contact, being withdrawn, and showing little affection.

**When replacing carpet in any home built before 1978, always assume it contains some lead.**

Following the appropriate remodeling safety procedures when removing carpet can help protect everyone.

### Before You Begin

1. Remove everything possible from the work area, including furniture, so these items do not get covered with lead dust.
2. Any items that can't be taken out of the work space need to be covered with 6 mil polyethylene (poly).
3. Turn off all the heating, air conditioning, and ventilation systems in the home. Use caution when turning off heating systems in the winter to prevent pipes from freezing.
4. Close, cover, and seal registers to prevent lead dust from settling in the vents.
5. Turn off window unit air conditioners and fans in the work area.
6. Cover and seal the window units with 6 mil poly.
7. Close, cover, and seal any unused doorways in the work area with 6 mil poly.
8. Use 6 mil poly to cover the floors, hallways, and rooms you will be passing through when you carry the carpet out.
9. Use disposable booties to cover shoes. Use a mask to avoid breathing in dust.

### Removing Carpet

1. Mist the carpet, carpet backing and padding with water to keep dust down. Cut carpet into manageable sections with utility knife.
2. Roll the carpet inward to avoid spreading dust to other areas.
3. Wrap carpet and pad in 1 mil poly plastic sheeting. Tape seams closed with duct tape.
4. After the carpet is wrapped, vacuum the floor with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner capable of removing 99.97% of dust at 0.3 microns.

### Personal Cleanup

1. Vacuum dust from clothing with a HEPA-filter equipped vacuum cleaner capable of removing 99.97% of dust at 0.3 microns.
2. Always wash your hands and face before you leave the work site.
3. Change your clothing and shoes before leaving the work site to prevent contaminating other areas. Ensure the safety of your family by washing your clothing separately from other family laundry. Wet wipe soles if booties are not worn.
4. Shower and thoroughly wash your hair right after finishing work to prevent spreading lead dust.