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# Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home

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United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



United States  
Consumer Product  
Safety Commission



United States  
Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

March 2021

**County of Fulton**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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## **HEPA Vacuum Can Be Borrowed By County Residents**

Through the Fulton County Public Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program grant, Fulton County residents can borrow a HEPA vacuum at no cost, to reduce the 'lead in dust levels' in their homes. Lead dust is created by chipping and peeling paint in houses built before 1978 that were painted with lead-based paints. Older single pane windows are often the source for high lead dust levels in the homes. Lead dust is generated when windows painted with lead-based paints are opened and closed. When windows are opened or fans or air conditioners are placed into them, the air currents can spread lead dust throughout the house. The amount of lead dust that would fit on your finger tip is enough to seriously lead poison a small child or pet. Lead poisoning causes permanent brain damage, hyperactivity, aggression, and hearing loss. All children should be tested by their healthcare provider for lead at ages one and again, at age two.

HEPA vacuums have special filters that can remove up to 99.97% of lead dust. By using a HEPA vacuum at least annually to clean windows and floors thoroughly and wet cleaning window sills and floors weekly, families living in older homes can significantly reduce their exposure to 'lead in dust' hazards. Residents who own older seasonal camps should also be concerned about lead dust hazards.

Residents performing their own home repairs or renovations, should use lead safe work practices and should use a HEPA vacuum to insure they have adequately cleaned up lead dust, to prevent the lead poisoning of their family members.

Residents should check to confirm the availability of the HEPA vacuum and should plan to bring identification to borrow the vacuum. The vacuum is on loan for a one-week period and residents must return them clean, and in good condition. New disposable vacuum bags are provided for each time the vacuum is loaned. Directions for using the HEPA vacuum are available.

For information on borrowing the HEPA vacuum available through the Fulton County Public Health Department located at 2714 State Highway 29, Johnstown, NY 12095, call 518-736-5720.

For more information on protecting your family from lead hazards copy and paste the following link to your browser <https://www.fultoncountyny.gov/lead>.