

# Washing leaded clothes at home

1. It is best to remove your clothes outside or away from your home and transport them in a closed plastic bag. They should be stored in the plastic bag until they are placed in the washer. Minimize handling of the clothes. Some dust will be released when the clothes are removed and each time they are handled. You do not need this dust in your home.
2. If you have access to water soluble bags, you can place the entire bag containing the dirty clothes directly into the washing machine. For example: <http://www.watersolublebags.com> Note: if you search “water soluble bags” you should be able to find them for about 60¢ each in packs of 25 or 100.
3. Always wash your hands after handling these clothes before you touch anything else.
4. When washing leaded clothing it is best to run a rinse cycle on the clothes first. This removes the free dirt from the clothing, then when the detergent is added it can start to work directly on the tough to remove dirt and lead.
5. Follow the wash cycle with two (2) rinse cycles for maximum removal.
6. When washing leaded work clothes at home:
  - ALWAYS** run a rinse cycle after all of the work clothes have been removed and before any household clothes are washed.
  - NEVER** wash leaded work clothes with any other clothes.
  - PERIODICALLY** clean the washer with detergent and a rinse cycle without any clothes present.

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7. Some laundry detergents can react with lead to form a soap scum containing high levels of lead. If this happens a deposit will be visible on the inside of the wash drum, or with a front load washer it will be visible on the glass, the door gasket and in the space between the door and wash drum.

8. If you encounter leaded soap scum build up, it can be removed with an acid wash. Add 4 cups of white vinegar and run a wash cycle with the largest amount of warm water the machine settings will allow. Then run a rinse cycle.

9. If you need to wash leaded clothes frequently, it is recommended to use a Laundry Detergent designed for efficient Lead removal. These detergents will help remove greater amounts of lead than common laundry detergents and help prevent the build up of lead in the washer. D-Lead® Laundry Detergents are specially formulated to remove lead and metal dust. See: [www.esca-tech.com](http://www.esca-tech.com)

10. After laundering, clothing can be tested with the D-Lead® test kit for lead dust (for procedure, see: [www.esca-tech.com](http://www.esca-tech.com)). If the test is positive, it maybe necessary to re-wash; add additional detergent to wash cycle, or switch to a detergent formulated to remove lead and metal dust.

11. Both the washer and dryer can be tested using the D-Lead® test kit for lead dust .

Washer can be cleaned following the procedure in section 8.

The simplest way to clean the inside of the dryer drum is to take a cotton cloth moistened with white vinegar and wipe the interior of the drum and door, then wipe the vinegar and lead away with a wet cotton towel. If the cleaned clothes test positive, then you will need to use a better, or possibly more detergent. Be sure to wear gloves and wash the lead from your hands.

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