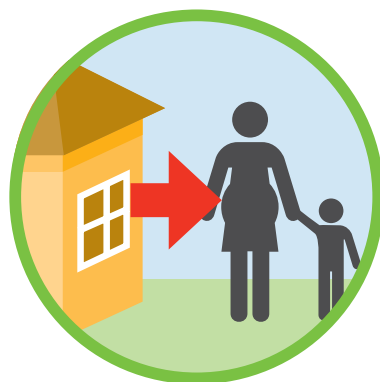


Lead-aware guide to carpet removal in Port Pirie

Minimising lead exposure during carpet removal

Lead contaminated dust is likely to be present in carpets (and underlays) even if the carpet appears to be in good condition. If carpet removal is not carried out carefully, other areas of the home such as children's play areas, bedrooms or living areas can easily become contaminated with lead dust.

Whether you are removing carpet yourself, or you choose to use professional carpet layers/removalists, there are a number of things you will need to do to plan and prepare your home for carpet removal. This 5-step guide has been developed by the EHC to help minimise lead exposure during carpet removal.



Step 1 - Plan

- > Make arrangements to relocate children, pregnant or breastfeeding women and women wanting to conceive during the carpet removal and clean up process until the job is finished and clean up completed.
- > Keep pets out of the carpet removal area to prevent them transferring contaminated dust throughout the house.
- > Ensure you have the right equipment ready to perform the task:
 - > Plastic and tape for sealing off the work area
 - > Heavy duty plastic and tape for wrapping up the old carpet
 - > Boxes to store items to be removed
 - > Garden style spray pack or hand held spray bottle filled with water
- > Vacuum cleaner with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter
- > Mop and buckets (one bucket for washing and one bucket for rinsing)
- > High phosphate solution such as 'Sugar Soap' for clean up
- > Plenty of cloths for cleaning up
- > Protective equipment - goggles, disposable gloves, hooded disposable coveralls, disposable shoe covers and dust mask (half face P1) – available at hardware stores
- > Garbage bags
- > Have an area cleared, or trailer ready, to place the old carpet and make arrangements prior to its removal for the old carpet to be disposed of as soon as possible.
- > *Carpets should be disposed of direct to the local waste facility* due to the lead dust contamination. Carpets in Port Pirie should never be reused in other locations within the home, given/sold to others or discarded in skip bins.*

**Port Pirie residents should take carpets to the local waste transfer station/dump.*



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Step 2 – Prepare

- > Prepare the room(s) by removing furniture, upholstery, curtains, blinds and wall hangings. If removal is not possible, then fully cover with plastic to protect furnishings from dust. Pack up small items (e.g. toys, ornaments, food) into boxes or sealed containers and remove from the site/area.
- > Seal adjoining doors and entry points (including air conditioner vents) securely with plastic to prevent dust contaminating other areas of the home.



Step 3 – Protect yourself and others

- > Ensure correct protective clothing (disposable coveralls and shoe covers, face mask, goggles and gloves) is worn by everyone involved in the removal and clean up process.
- > Remove coveralls and shoe covers before leaving the work area.
- > Do not smoke, eat or drink near the work area and wash hands thoroughly before doing any of these activities to reduce risk of swallowing contaminated dust.
- > Shower and wash your hair as soon as possible after you finish work.
- > Wash work clothes separately from the family wash.



Step 4 – Remove carpet carefully

- > Keep the doors of the room being re-carpeted/carpet removed closed when possible.
- > Vacuum the carpet to be removed first using a HEPA filter vacuum, to remove dust on the surface.
- > Using the spray pack or hand held spray bottle, mist the entire surface of the old carpet with water to minimise dust generation (a new un-used garden style spray pack or hand held spray bottle is suitable for misting).
- > Roll the carpet and underlay inward to avoid distributing dust (this may need to be done by rolling one layer at a time depending on the size of carpeted area).
- > Wrap the carpet in heavy duty plastic and secure seams with tape to ensure the contaminated dust is contained and doesn't spread then remove the rolled carpet from the house immediately.



Step 5 – Clean up

- > **Wait to start cleaning for at least 3 hours after carpet removal/replacement is complete to allow airborne dust to settle.**
- > Remaining carpet nails and tacks need to be removed from flooring before starting to clean the area.
- > Vacuum the flooring of the area from which carpet has been removed, use a HEPA vacuum to prevent the spread of small dust particles around the home (do not use a broom as this will spread dust).

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- > Vacuum, wash **and wet wipe** all horizontal and vertical surfaces in the work area— walls, ceiling, doors, light fittings, ceiling fans, air-conditioners and skirtings with a high phosphate solution (e.g. Sugar Soap) starting with the highest surfaces and working down to lowest.
- > Repeat wiping of the surfaces with water (not detergent/sugar soap) then wipe dry.
- > Rinse cleaning cloths when water changes colour to prevent recontaminating surfaces and change cloths when required i.e. when there is visible dust that can no longer be removed with rinsing
- > Wet mop flooring, using a two bucket system – one bucket containing sugar soap and one bucket with clean water rinsing. Change water when water changes colour to prevent recontaminating surfaces. Rinse mops thoroughly as you proceed.
- > Allow floor to dry completely before using the room or installing new carpet or flooring.
- > If new carpet or flooring needs to be laid before all surfaces in the room have been cleaned thoroughly then once new carpet or flooring is laid, HEPA vacuum and cover with anti-slip plastic or other protective sheeting (available at hardware stores) while completing all surface clean up (i.e. wash and wet wipe process).
- > Dispose of contaminated water down the drain, not on gardens.

Note: If it wasn't possible to effectively seal-off the work area completely from the rest of the house then after cleaning the work area, clean the adjacent rooms first and work outwards to the farthest areas, prioritising children's play areas.

When cleaning the adjacent areas, remember:

- > If curtains and blinds were not removed you will need to vacuum/wash them.
- > Vacuum carpets with HEPA vacuum and wet mop floors.
- > Furniture which was not removed or covered will need to be vacuumed or washed.
- > Wet wipe horizontal and vertical surfaces using detergent and water—working from highest surfaces down to the lowest.
- > High pressure clean outdoor areas if needed.

Cleaning your equipment

- > **Clean** your tools with cloths soaked in high-phosphate solution (e.g. Sugar Soap)
- > **Discard** all disposable items and cleaning cloths in plastic bags
- > Empty the vacuum cleaner outside the house into a bin
- > Rinse mops and buckets thoroughly

For more information and a video on lead-aware carpet removal visit:

<http://www.thep.ca/renovating/video4>

For more information

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www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/ehc

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