



Lorain County Public Health has a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter vacuum that is available to Lorain County residents to help clean up lead-based paint chips or lead dust inside the home. **The HEPA vacuum is loaned out for 1 week and there is no charge for the use of the vacuum.** In order for this program to succeed, it is essential that residents borrowing the HEPA vacuum use it properly and return it back in a clean condition to protect the health and safety of our staff.

What is a HEPA vacuum?

- A HEPA vacuum differs from a regular household vacuum because it has 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.
- A HEPA vacuum is a tool available to homeowners and tenants that is useful in cleaning lead contaminated surfaces in the home.
- The use of different attachments on the HEPA vacuum allows for more specific cleaning. The extension tube can assist in reaching high places and a special attachment assists while cleaning carpets and rugs.
- Many items inside the home can be cleaned using a HEPA vacuum: 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.
- The use of 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 of the exhaust of a regular vacuum. This dust may re-settle on toys, furniture, and floors where small children can become exposed. A regular vacuum does not remove lead dust.

Important TIPS when using the HEPA vacuum:

- Do not let children touch or play with the HEPA vacuum.
- Do not vacuum any liquids. The vacuum can only be used on dry surfaces.
- Do not use the vacuum to clean up asbestos, mercury, or other hazardous materials.
- Avoid picking up large or heavy objects which might puncture the vacuum bag.
- Please do not open the machine or remove the bag. Health department staff will change the vacuum bag when necessary.
- Avoid removing the hose from the base unit.
- Do not attempt to service machine. Contact Lorain County Public Health for problems.

To borrow a vacuum:

- Must live in Lorain County (except Vermillion)
- Have a valid driver's license or state I.D.
- Pick up at Lorain County Public Health
- Vacuums may be borrowed for 1 week
- Renter's Agreement – A renter's agreement must be signed when picking up the HEPA vacuum.
- Inventory – A complete list of parts and the HEPA vacuum's serial number will be kept as part of your agreement.

Returning the HEPA Vacuum:

- **Inventory** –All of the inventoried items must be returned at the time of drop-off.
- **Condition** – Please clean the exterior of HEPA vacuum only. Do not open the vacuum after use, we will clean and remove the bag.
- **Damages** – If you accidentally break something, please alert us when you return it so we can have it repaired or replaced quickly.
- **Failure of return** – Anyone that does not return the HEPA vacuum and attachments by the agreed upon date will be prohibited from rental in the future and is subject to criminal prosecution.

Pick up/drop off of HEPA vacuum:

We are located at 9880 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, OH 44035. Please alert the receptionist that you are picking up or returning a HEPA vacuum. Please bring your driver's license or state ID in order to reserve a HEPA vacuum.

To reserve the HEPA filter vacuum call:
Lorain County Public Health
440-322-6367