General Information about Lead

In Port Pirie, lead is present in the air, soil and dust around us.

Where lead is present in the environment, it finds its way into our homes.

Simple measures like dusting with a damp cloth and removing shoes before entering the home help to keep our homes cleaner and safer.

Home cleaning requires a few special but simple techniques

For example:

> Throw away the feather duster. It will only spread the dust, not pick it up and use a damp cloth for dusting.
> Damp mop rather than sweep.
> Close windows and doors on windy days.

For more information

Environmental Health Centre
117 Gertrude Street
PORT PIRIE SA 5540
Telephone: 8638 4100
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Lead Smart Indoor Tips

Wash and dry your hands before preparing food/drinks, feeding children and eating or drinking.

Handwashing and drying is one of the most effective ways to keep lead out of the body.

Damp wipe kitchen surfaces and ensure all equipment is clean before preparing food and drinks. 

Lead dust settles on kitchen surfaces and equipment.

Damp mop, damp dust and vacuum rather than sweeping and using a dry duster. Ensure all children are removed from the room when vacuuming and that the dust from the vacuum cleaner is placed in the bin.

Sweeping and using a dry duster causes lead dust to swirl around the room and settle on other surfaces. Lead dust can also be suspended in the air after vacuum cleaning.

Start the day with a healthy breakfast. Milk and yoghurt are good sources of calcium and should be included as part of your breakfast.

Calcium helps reduce the amount of lead absorbed in the stomach.

Give young children small frequent meals and healthy snacks during the day.

Children absorb less lead when they have a stomach full of healthy food.

Dry dishes and put them away rather than leaving them to dry on a rack.

This ensures lead dust does not settle on them.

Seal all cracks and cornices in your house.

This prevents lead dust falling into rooms as lead dust collects in ceilings.

Evaporative air cooling pads need to be wet before use.

This prevents lead dust being blown inside.

Do not drink or use rainwater for preparation of food and drinks or for cooking.

Lead dust collects on your roof and is washed into your rainwater tank when it rains. Boiling rainwater will not get rid of lead it only concentrates it.

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Children absorb less lead when they have a stomach full of healthy food.

Wash all fruit and vegetables with tap water before using them.

This removes any lead dust that may have settled on them.

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It only takes a small amount of lead dust to give a baby an elevated blood lead level.

Wash and dry your hands before preparing food/drinks, feeding children and eating or drinking.