

EPA Final Rule to reduce dust clearance levels after lead removal activities

Intended to protect children from harmful lead exposure effects

Sections 402 and 403 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) set hazard standards and abatement clearance levels for lead in paint, dust, and soil. On January 7, 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the final rule to lower current clearance levels, effective March 8, 2021:

- Floor dust will lower from 40 micrograms of lead per square foot ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) to $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$
- Windowsill dust will lower from $250 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ to $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$.

The ultimate goal of the standard is to protect young children from lead exposure in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities. Changes to these standards may affect older buildings at DoD installations where children congregate.

If you would like more information on the final rule or EPA hazard standards and clearance levels for lead in paint, dust and soil, please go to the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/hazard-standards-and-clearance-levels-lead-paint-dust-and-soil-tsca-sections-402-and-403>.

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smcx.org/>.



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