

This was forwarded to us from our respected associate Dan Askin, who has worked most of his life producing products focusing on lead dangers we all face in our home.

I asked Dan if he would be kind enough to give us a “laundry list” on how to prevent the poison on your work clothes spreading to our family. I encourage you to follow this procedure and to contact Dan with any questions you might have.

Peter

## Washing Leaded Clothing at Home

Here are some general guidelines to keep in mind when washing leaded work clothes at home.

1. When washing leaded clothing you always run a rinse cycle first. This removes all of the free dirt from the clothing first so that when the detergents are added they can go to work on the tough dirt and lead.
2. When washing leaded work clothes at home:  
**ALWAYS** run a rinse cycle after all of the work clothes are done and removed, before any household clothes are washed.  
**NEVER** wash leaded work clothes with any other clothes.
3. Some laundry detergents will react with the lead to form a soap scum that will be visible on the inside of the wash drum and if it is a front load washer it will be visible on the glass, the door gasket and inside the space between the door and wash drum.
4. If you have this soap scum build up then it needs to be removed with an acid wash. If you ever encounter this, please give me a call and I can detail the procedure for you.
5. Washer design is such that the lead particles that are freed from the clothing will either float away to the drain or will settle out on the bottom of the washer where they will generally remain forever.
6. Both the lead soap scum and settled lead particles in the holding tank can be removed over the course of 10 or 20 wash cycles with the specialty lead laundry detergents available.
7. You also need to be concerned with the clothes dryer. If the clothes are not getting thoroughly cleaned then they will contaminate the dryer. The dryer needs to be tested with a lead test kit, and if it tests positive, then the drum will need to be cleaned. Because some of the air is recirculated in a household dryer, this cleaning will need to be repeated to purge most of the lead from the inaccessible areas of the dryer.

For additional information:

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