

Procedure for Removal and Disposal of Lead Containing Mini-blinds

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has determined that vinyl (plastic) mini-blinds imported from China, Indonesia, Taiwan and Mexico contain high concentrations of lead and can be dangerous to young children. Lead, which is used to stabilize the vinyl, becomes a dust on the surface of the mini-blinds, particularly when they are exposed to heat and sun. Children are vulnerable to lead exposure from mini-blinds when they touch the mini-blinds and then put their hands in their mouths or if they mouth the mini-blinds directly. Children under the age of six are especially vulnerable to lead exposure, which can cause behavioral problems, learning disabilities, reduced growth, and hearing loss.

1. Wear disposable gloves.
2. Remove any curtains hanging at the window.
3. Mist the blinds and window lightly with water to stabilize any dust.
4. Draw the blinds up as far as they will go.
5. Holding a large plastic trash bag directly below the blinds, carefully release the blinds from the brackets into the trash bag. Tie the trash bag securely.
6. Dispose of the blinds in your regular trash. Do not let children have access to the blinds.
7. Using an all-purpose cleaner (Simple Green, etc) in a spray bottle and paper towels, clean the window and window components (glasses, muntins, sashes, sill, trough) thoroughly.
8. Any furniture or items located below the window must be cleaned thoroughly with the all-purpose cleaner and paper towels.
9. The floor below the window must be cleaned by either the all-purpose cleaner (wood, tile, linoleum, etc) or vacuuming (carpet).
10. Remove and throw away the disposable gloves. Wash your hands with soap and water.
11. Wash the curtains and any clothes worn during the process separately from other laundry.

If you have any questions, please call the Forsyth County Department of Public Health - Division of Environmental Health at 336-703-3225.