

# How to Change a Lead-Contaminated HEPA Vacuum Bag Safely

**\*\*Guidance for Local Public Health Offices\*\***

## Tools you will need:

- Disposal bag
- Paper towels
- Spray mister filled with water
- 10' x 10' poly sheeting
- Wet wipes
- Duct tape
- Vacuum replacement parts

## Personal Protective Equipment:

- Disposable coveralls
- Rubber/latex gloves
- Boot covers



### **STEP 1:**

Place a small piece of duct tape over the vacuum's intake.

**STEP 2:** Lay out the poly sheeting. This should be done outside, or in a garage-type area. Place the contaminated HEPA vacuum in the center of the plastic along with the spray mister, wet-wipes/paper towels, duct tape, disposal bag and any other tools, as needed. The new HEPA vacuum bag should be placed just off the edge of the plastic within easy reach.

**STEP 3:** Put on the disposable coveralls, boot covers, and the rubber or latex gloves.



### **STEP 4:**

Using the spray mister, lightly mist the air around the HEPA vacuum as you open the canister. Once the vacuum is open, mist the contents.



### **STEP 5:**

Carefully remove the HEPA vacuum bag and place a small piece of duct tape over the hole. Place the vacuum bag into the disposal bag.





#### **STEP 6:**

Using either the wet-wipes or the paper towels with the mister, wipe out the inside of the canister, then wipe down the outside. Dispose of the wet-wipes or paper towels in the disposal bag.



**STEP 7:** Connect the new collection bag. Make certain that a good seal has been created between the bag and the canister intake. Place the cover back on the vacuum and secure it.



#### **STEP 8:**

Remove the gloves and coveralls and place them in the disposal bag. Using wet-wipes, clean all tools, including the vacuum and the exterior of the disposal bag, and

place them off the edge of the poly sheeting. Remove boot covers, stepping off of the poly sheeting with each foot upon removal. Wipe hands and face clean with wet-wipes.

**STEP 9:** Using the spray mister, generously mist the entire sheet of poly. Carefully fold the poly sheeting inward onto itself, trapping any dust or debris inside the plastic. Fold the sheeting to a manageable size and place it in the disposal bag.



#### **STEP 10:**

Seal the disposal bag using a piece of duct tape to create a gooseneck tie at the top of the bag.

#### **STEP 11:**

If this procedure was performed in a garage-like area, as a final step, HEPA vacuum the floor.

#### **STEP 12:**

Dispose of waste in accordance with local ordinances

