

Being lead aware while cleaning up after the Port Pirie storm

A recent storm has caused widespread damage in Port Pirie. While clean-ups are underway it is important to remember to be lead aware, due to Port Pirie having lead-contaminated dust. Here are some lead-aware tips to protect you during clean-up activities.

Safety tips while cleaning up:

- Use gloves, wear overalls or dedicated clothing and wash separately after clean-up.
- Avoid breathing in dust, use a mask if the area is dusty.
- Wash hands, face, and exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water after cleaning.
- Avoid outdoor clean-ups during windy conditions to prevent dust from spreading.
- Keep children, pregnant people, and pets away from clean-up areas.
- If using tradespeople or contractors provide them with [lead-aware information](#).
- Contact your local council for waste disposal advice.

Outdoor clean-up:

- Use a hose or wet-washing methods to clean dust from verandas, pergolas, outdoor furniture and play equipment.
- Remove fallen trees safely, contact your local council or hire a contractor.
- Prevent children from accessing areas with disturbed soil.
- Top up or replace play areas with new sand or bark chips if they appear dusty or contaminated with dirt.
- Do not use outdoor blowers, dry sweeping, or dry dusting as they spread lead dust.
- Clean or replace dusty entry mats.

Indoor clean-up:

- Use wet wiping and wet mopping to clean indoor surfaces.
- Use a HEPA-filter vacuum to capture fine particles.
- If ceilings or walls have been damaged, clean surrounding surfaces using wet methods as dust may have spread.
- Follow lead-safe [carpet removal guidelines](#) if carpets were damaged and need to be removed.
- Homes built before 1980 may contain lead-based paint—handle damaged paint with [lead-aware methods](#).

Contact the Environmental Health Centre (8638 4100) for more information on lead exposure minimisation and the Port Pirie Regional Council if you have questions regarding clean-up (8633 9777).