Meadowlark Home Cleaning
Family-owned house cleaning · Gresham, Oregon · free guide

FOR REMODELS AND REPAIRS

After-Renovation Dust Cleanup Guide

Renovation dust is finer than normal household dust. It gets into vents, light fixtures, closets and the tops of door frames, and a broom just moves it into the air. The fix is the right order and the right tools: top to bottom, vacuum with a HEPA filter, then damp wipe.

Check the age of the house first

If your home was built before 1978, renovation dust can contain lead. The EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting rule requires paid work that disturbs paint in these homes to be done by certified firms using lead-safe work practices.[1] A cleaning company is not one of those firms. If lead paint may have been disturbed, read the EPA guidance first, and use a HEPA vacuum and wet methods rather than dry sweeping.[2]

The order that works

1. Close doors to unfinished areas, and cover supply and return vents until the heavy dust is done.
2. Work top to bottom: ceiling fans and fixtures, then shelves and window frames, then furniture, then floors.
3. Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter on surfaces first, including walls and the tops of door frames.
4. Follow with a damp microfiber cloth. Rinse and change the cloth often, since dust turns to paste.
5. Wash floors last with a damp mop. Do not dry sweep.
6. Clean vent covers and replace the furnace filter. Run a fresh filter for a few days and check it again.
7. Wash windows, window tracks and the inside of cabinets and closets last, since dust settles there.

Often-missed spots

- [ ] Tops of door frames, trim and baseboards
- [ ] Inside window tracks and along sills
- [ ] Light fixture bowls and ceiling fan blades
- [ ] Inside cabinets, drawers and closets
- [ ] Vents, returns and registers
- [ ] The back and underside of furniture that stayed in the room
- [ ] Outlets and switch plates

What not to do

- Do not dry sweep or use a leaf blower indoors.
- Do not use a regular household vacuum without a HEPA filter on very fine dust. It can blow the finest particles back into the room.
- Do not run the furnace fan before the vents and filter are clean.
- Do not scrub painted surfaces hard before you check the paint is cured.

When to bring in help

If dust is in every room, the home sat through months of work, or you cannot get the home to stop re-dusting after two passes, a restorative clean is built for this. We work room by room until the home is livable and yours again. Call or send the form and we will talk it through.

Sources

[1] Renovation, Repair and Painting Program, U.S. EPA. https://www.epa.gov/lead/renovation-repair-and-painting-program

[2] Protect Your Family From Sources of Lead, U.S. EPA. https://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-sources-lead

> **Want a hand with restorative cleaning?**
> Call Jeremy at (503) 505-0174 or ask for a free quote at meadowlarkhomecleaning.com/contact. The quote is free, with no obligation.

Meadowlark Home Cleaning, Gresham, Oregon. meadowlarkhomecleaning.com/guides/after-renovation-dust-cleanup · Last reviewed November 13, 2026. General information, not legal or professional advice.