



Attachment 5: DPH Guidelines for Home Cleaning and Ventilation

To reduce the potential for exposure to contaminants that may have entered homes, DPH recommends adequate ventilation of homes to flush out residual contaminants, deep cleaning of surfaces, regular change-out of HVAC filters, and proper maintenance of air purifiers. These steps will minimize the potential for exposure that may produce health-related symptoms. Such cleaning will also remove routine dust, pollens and molds, which may have accumulated during the period when people were not in their homes practicing normal house cleaning.

DPH recommends the following steps for ventilation and cleaning. Further guidance for residents and a detailed technical protocol for professional cleaning contractors will be made available.

1. Extensive ventilating of homes.
 - A. Ventilate the home for a minimum of 12 hours. During ventilation run central fans and HVAC units and open all exterior doors, windows, interior doors, and large cabinets.
 - B. Open all faucets for 30 seconds and flush all toilets, if home has been unoccupied.
2. Clean the ductwork in all heating, ventilating and air-conditioning units to remove residual residue. These components should be thoroughly and professionally cleaned. The main ventilation/air conditioning intake areas should be HEPA vacuumed.
3. Clean all applicable surfaces inside residences.
 - A. HEPA vacuum all floors and hard surfaces inside the home. Hard surfaces include countertops, blinds, walls, and air conditioning registers, diffusers, and intake areas. Ceilings should be vacuumed if indicated by visual observation.
 - B. HEPA vacuum soft surfaces, such as upholstered furnishings, carpeting, and drapes. Follow by cleaning these materials with steam. Alternatively, drapery can be professionally dry cleaned.
 - C. Wet clean all walls, countertops, air conditioning registers and diffusers, and any other hard surfaces that can be safely wet cleaned. Wet cleaning may be done with a damp cloth or other agent appropriate for cleaning the specific surface type.
 - D. Spot treatment with a solvent may be necessary if oily residue is found inside the home.
4. Remove and replace HVAC/ventilation system filters.
 - A. Remove all filters at the end of cleaning.
 - B. Dispose of used filters by placing in plastic bags and placing bag in trash.
 - C. After cleaning is completed, replace all central air filters with a medium or high efficiency particle filter (MERV 8 or higher). Replacement filters must exactly fit the filter slot.
5. Additional measures for residents
 - A. Review manufacturer's guidelines for proper maintenance of portable air purifier(s) and/or HVAC Air Scrubber.
 - B. Residents may want to wash all bedding and clothing as an extra measure of caution.
 - C. Remove any food items that were not stored in air tight containers.

Ventilation and some of the above cleaning measures may be done by residents. However, professional cleaning is recommended. Highly qualified professional cleaning is required for in-duct cleaning because improper cleaning can result in worsening the indoor environmental conditions. Residents may need to take precaution while cleaning, such as wearing a respiratory dust mask, having doors and windows open while cleaning, and taking care in using cleaning agents in enclosed spaces. Choose masks that have the words "NIOSH" and either "N95" or "P100," which are sold at hardware stores.