

# LEAD DUST & MINI-BLINDS



Some imported plastic/vinyl mini-blinds made before 1997 could be lead hazards, and many of these blinds can still be found in some homes. As these blinds hang in windows for many years, sunlight and heat break down the vinyl, causing them to release the lead and form lead dust. Since lead dust is a hazard and continues to form even after cleaning the blinds, **it is recommended that imported mini-blinds made before 1997 be removed from the home.**

## Are my blinds a hazard?

How can I tell if I have vinyl/plastic mini-blinds?

- ☐ Are the brackets that hold your blinds plastic?
- ☐ Do the blinds spring back when you bend them?
- ☐ Can you see through the blinds when you hold them up to the light?

If you checked one or more boxes, you probably have vinyl blinds. Vinyl blinds will either crack or spring back. Metal blinds will stay bent and are not see-through. You can use a flashlight to check.



## Instructions for blind removal

### GET READY



Clean cloths or paper towels, plastic trash bags, duct tape



Wear disposable gloves



Mist blinds and window with water

### CLEANUP

- Wipe wet blinds with cloths or paper towels.
- Slowly draw up blinds and remove blinds from window bracket.
- Put blinds in trash bag.
- Wash the entire window area with an all-purpose cleaner.
- Place dirty paper towels and gloves in the trash bag with blinds. If using rags, wash these separately from your regular laundry.

## Other questions

### I am renting my home. What can I do?

If you are uncertain about the blinds in your home, remove and replace them. If you are renting, ask your landlord for permission before removing the blinds in the home.

### I am going to buy new blinds. What can I get instead?

If you choose to get new blinds, be sure they are labeled as “No Lead Added” or “Non-Leaded Formula” or “Lead Free.” You can also use roll-up shades, curtains, drapes or other window treatments.

For more information and resources, contact the Oklahoma Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (405) 426-8311 | [Okldppp@health.ok.gov](mailto:Okldppp@health.ok.gov)



Lead Poisoning Prevention