



Date: March 7, 2022

BEOH Memo 2022-01

To: Certified Lead Companies

From: Lead and Asbestos Section

**Exterior Lead Abatement and Renovation Cleaning Activities:  
Wet/dry vacuum with HEPA filter and drywall bag is OK**

**Background:** Wisconsin Admin. Code ch. DHS 163 provides standards for lead renovation and abatement work. Many of these standards are about cleaning the work area, but some are written more clearly than others. This can make it difficult to know the right tools to use.

For example, the standard for pre-cleaning an exterior abatement work area says that it is OK to use a wet/dry vacuum ("shop vac") with a drywall bag and high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. Other standards for exterior cleaning are less clear and do not say that a particular type of vacuum must be used.

**What you should know:** For exterior cleaning at a lead abatement and renovation site, **DHS allows a wet/dry vacuum** as long as you also fit it **with a drywall bag and HEPA filter**.