



# COUNTY OF ERIE

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As people have been allowed back in their homes and the cleanup is on-going following the fire, residents and their families are advised to thoroughly clean areas in the houses and on their property where residue from smoke is present, particularly in areas where children play. Below are some guidelines:

- Heating and Air Conditioning Vents and Filters - Before turning on any heating or air conditioning unit, be sure to inspect for visible dust/soot. Disposable filters should be replaced. Filters that can be washed and re-used should be washed with water and detergent to remove any visible dust/soot. Outside of air conditioning units can be washed to remove soot and deposits.
- Interior Surfaces - In the event any dust or soot is visible inside a building use wet washing with detergent and water in a bucket. Change water frequently. Vacuuming should only be performed with a High Efficiency Particulate (HEPA) vacuum or equivalent.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, closed toed shoes, disposable dust mask and disposable gloves if there is significant soot or dust accumulation. Launder this clothing separately from the rest of the household clothes. If conditions are dusty or material is airborne, then the use of an N-95 particulate respirator is recommended. These respirators can be purchased at hardware or home centers.
- Wash children's toys with warm water and mild detergent. Be sure to thoroughly rinse.
- Launder linens and draperies, particularly in babies' rooms.
- Wash cooking and eating utensils that may have been soiled before next use. And thoroughly wash kitchen countertop surfaces with mild detergent and rinse with clean water.
- If concerned, consider having carpets and upholstery shampooed. The most thorough approach is a truck-mounted commercial cleaning service. You may also wish to hire a professional fire/smoke restoration company depending on the odor and visible contamination in your home. Check with your insurance carrier to see if such services are covered by your policy.
- Exterior Surfaces (including vehicles) - Use water and detergent to spray off accumulated deposits. In the event the residue is sticky then the addition of stronger cleaning solution such as tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) may be used. TSP can be purchased at local hardware stores. (One brand name is Simple Green)
- All exterior wash water should be hosed down with fresh water and cleared away from structures as best as possible. Wash water should also be diverted from vegetable gardens or areas where children may play.