ELIMINATING LEAD DUST CONTAMINATION IN HOSPITALS
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ABSTRACT

Lead bricks used for radiation shielding may produce lead dust if uncovered. We placed two plastic sealable freezer bags (plastic bags) over lead bricks dust levels to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.  **Methods:** Plastic bags were placed over lead bricks, and at nine sites in two hospitals. Lead test kits were used to obtain lead dust samples.  Samples were collected after the first two weeks and once again after four weeks. Surface samples were also taken off the unlined lead bricks to check for contamination. The samples were sent to a laboratory. Lead contamination was compared to the EPA standards for lead dust contamination (40μg/ft²).  **Results:** There was no significant lead contamination present on the outside of the bags which held the lead bricks. All of the unlined bricks were contaminated according to the EPA standard.  **Conclusion:** Protective covering should be used to prevent lead dust contamination on unlined lead bricks.  **Key Words:** Lead dust in hospitals, lead dust hazards, lead dust contamination