

FIRE ASH CLEAN UP RESOURCES



If your property has ash from the recent fires in Los Angeles, DO NOT hose it off!

The City of Los Angeles has advised that if your property does have ash on it as a result of the recent wildfires, please do not hose the ash off. Hosing off the ash could send toxic contaminants directly into our watershed, and from there, into the ocean, causing serious harm to our environment.

Protect yourself and the environment. Refer to [@lacitysan](#) for more safety tips.

The EPA is starting to remove hazardous materials from the impacted areas, and the City of Los Angeles is working to implement measures to prevent the toxic ash from flowing into storm drains and into the ocean.

The LA County Department of Public Health put together the following additional slides for further details on how to properly clean up fire ash in areas without fire damage. For more information, call 888-700-9995.





ABOUT ASH...

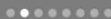
- Ash, dust and debris (particularly from burned buildings) may contain toxic and cancer-causing chemicals, including **asbestos, arsenic, and lead.**



- **Ash, soot, dust, and other airborne particles** may have been deposited inside and outside of homes and businesses



- Ash from wildfires is relatively non-toxic but **can irritate, skin, eyes, nose, and throat**
- Ash in air may trigger **asthmatic attacks** in people who already have asthma



CLEANING

Try not to get ash into the air.



- **Do not use leaf blowers** or other actions that will put ash into the air.
- **Gentle sweeping** of indoor and outdoor surfaces, followed by **wet mopping**, is the best way to clean an area with ash.
- A solution of **bleach and water** may be used to disinfect an area, if desired.
- **Read label on container** for proper use.



CLEANING

Shop vacuums and regular household vacuum cleaners are not recommended to clean up ash.



- Most vacuums **do not filter out small particles**, but blow particles into the air where they can be breathed in.
- **HEPA-filter vacuums** can filter out small particles and can be used.
- Ash may be thrown away in the regular trash by placing it in a **plastic trash bag first**; this will prevent the ash from becoming airborne and blowing away as the trash can is emptied.



PROTECT YOURSELF

- Do not let children play in or with items covered by the ash.
- To **avoid skin contact**, wear household dishwashing gloves, long-sleeved shirt and long pants during clean up.
- If ash does get on your skin, wash off with **warm water and soap** as soon as possible.
- If handling broken material (i.e., glass, metals, wood, etc.) **wear gloves** that protect against cuts, abrasions and punctures (i.e., leather or Kevlar gloves).
- A **disposable N-95 mask** or better can be worn during clean-up to avoid breathing in ash and other airborne particles. However, they do not protect from gases. They can be purchased from a home/hardware store. N-95 masks must be properly fitted, with no gaps around the edges. An improperly fitted mask is the same as wearing no mask at all.





N-95 REMINDERS

- Follow **label instructions** on package for proper use
- People who must be outside for extended periods of time in an ash-covered area may benefit from using a **tight-fitting N95 respirator** or greater to reduce their exposure
- N-95 masks **may make it harder to breathe**, especially for those with lung or heart disease



ADDITIONAL PROTECTION

- Wear **safety goggles** (not safety glasses) if clean-up may cause ash in the air and if using chemical cleaning solutions, to prevent splashing into the eyes.
- Wear **safety shoes** or sturdy close-toed, **high-ankle leather shoes** if burn debris (i.e., broken glass, metal, wood, etc.) is in the area that is being cleaned.
- **Shower regularly** throughout the day when cleaning in and out of areas with ash.

