

Lead Workwear: Verify the Dirty-to-Clean Handoff

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | October 12, 2026 | Discussion + field verification

Why this matters

Contaminated workwear needs a controlled handoff before anyone enters a personal vehicle. Prepare the changing and collection station before lead work begins.

Objective: Verify the clothing, footwear and personal-item handoff at the clean boundary.

Key hazards or failure points

Contaminated workwear; shared storage; dirty phones; dusty footwear; uncontrolled clothing collection.

Practical controls

- Follow the employer's lead-control plan and required hygiene arrangements. Keep clean clothing and personal items separated from contaminated equipment and workwear.
- Use the designated changing, washing and clothing-handling process before breaks and departure. Do not shake or blow dust from clothing or take contaminated workwear home for washing.
- Keep contaminated tools and workwear out of personal vehicles. Use the approved collection and cleaning service, with clearly assigned responsibility at shift end.

Verify It in the Field

Before work, walk the planned clean-to-dirty transition. Confirm usable washing supplies, separate storage and required changing or shower facilities; report missing arrangements.

Have the responsible person demonstrate the clothing collection and cleaning process without contaminated materials. Confirm containers, labels and assigned handling responsibility.

Trace phones, keys, boots and clothes through departure. Record who verifies cleaning and release; a clean-looking surface does not prove lead is absent.

Stop and reassess

Hold affected work when required hygiene or containment is unavailable. If contamination reaches a vehicle or home, prevent further spread and notify the lead-program lead for assessment; do not improvise household cleanup.

Ask the crew

1. What could carry lead into the car?
2. Where do dirty clothes stay?
3. Who resolves a contaminated personal item?

Use this HOP tool — Job-site review: Walk the departure route before exposure and name every item that will cross from work to personal space. For one item, identify the contamination barrier, its verification and the responsible person. Resolve a missing arrangement before the crew starts the dusty task.

Sources: OSHA/NIOSH references and DOE Vol. 2; full source list on the topic webpage. HOP concepts adapted from DOE-HDBK-1028-2009, Vol. 2 (June 2009). No claim to original U.S. Government work; no government endorsement implied.

Free next step: JHA/JSA planning and field-verification worksheet

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/lead-workwear-dirty-clean-handoff