



Wings of Eagles Healthy Living (WEHL)  
Indoor Environmental Specialist

## Baseboard Cleaning for Pesticides Protocol

### Fixing the Problem

Based on the information found, the best way to clean the pesticide from the baseboards would be to first know what pesticides we are dealing with. Since this information is rarely available we will take a broad approach. Keep in mind that any pesticides that have been absorbed into porous materials will not be completely removed. Pesticides may not be completely removed from all surfaces.

### **Protective Clothing:**

It is recommended that the individual cleaning should wear protective gloves like rubber, nitrile, or latex. They will need to use more than one pair. Keep the cleaning water off of the skin as it will have pesticide residue in it. Ventilate the rooms well and consider wearing a ventilator as the pesticides begin to break down they will off gas.

### **Items Needed:**

- Several sponges or rags; ones not used before would be best to insure no toxic chemical or pesticide residue is introduced; Use a new sponge or rag for each step.
- Several containers for holding the Vodka, hot soapy water, & hot rinse water; Use a different container for each hot soapy water and rinse step.
- Soap; natural, non-toxic, basic soap will do; chose one that you tolerate (like Castile Soap or Dr. Bronners)

### **Steps:**

- First use 150 proof Vodka to wash the base boards. It can be applied with a rag or sponge or sprayed on but do not breath fumes. Let it sit for at least one hour
- Then wash with hot soapy water, the hotter the better; use a new sponge or rag and container for this step
- Last, rinse base boards changing the water often keeping it very hot; again, use a new sponge or rag and container.

You may want to consider doing this process twice.

Dispose of gloves, container holding hot soapy water, and rags or sponges as household toxic waste as it will contain pesticide residue. Wash hands and any areas in contact with the water with hot soapy water.

Be aware that the finish on the base boards may not hold up to this cleaning and may need to be refinished.