

LEAD POISONING

LEAD IN SOIL

Ways To Reduce Lead In Soil

Focus on these higher risk areas when looking for lead in your soil.

Play Areas

- Keep play areas away from structures with lead paint
- Cover bare soil & play areas with ground cover
- Provide a clean sandbox for children

Vegetable Gardens

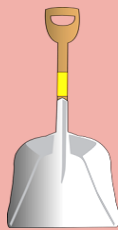
- Replace top 10" of soil with clean soil
- Keep soil moist to limit dust
- Scrub any vegetables grown in the garden before eating
- Keep soil from being too acidic
- Wear gloves when working in soil

Drip zone

- A drip zone is the 3-foot area that surrounds the house
- A drip zone usually has the highest levels of lead because of exterior chipping and flaking paint
- Remove the top 10" of drip zone soil
- Plant shrubs right around the house to keep kids out of the drip zone
- Fence up the area or cover with landscape fabric and mulch

Walkways

- Avoid bringing lead-leaded soil from walkways into the home
- Cover soil walkways with gravel, stone, brick, or concrete



LEAD IN SOIL IS A PROBLEM

The only way to know if there is lead in your soil is to get it tested

Most people think of old paint when they hear about lead poisoning, but lead in soil can also be harmful to children and when consumed, can impair their ability to think, concentrate and learn. Lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Lead in soil comes from flaking paint, years of factory pollution and leaded gasoline in cars. Lead arsenate was also used as a pesticide in orchards. When lead gets in soil it does not wash away or dissolve; it lasts forever.

RISKS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

You can be exposed to lead in soil in many ways



- Children often play in soil and mud, and may put leaded dirt from their hands & toys into their mouths
- People bring in lead from outside on their shoes
- Pets can bring home leaded soil on their fur & paws

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

Lead in soil is dangerous and can enter your home

- Choose plants, shrubs, and ground cover that will keep children away from bare soil
- Place a rug at each entry door to stop dirt from tracking in
- Take shoes off at the door
- Wash hands and fingernails after playing outside
- Wash yard toys before bringing them inside, or just leave the yard toys outside
- Wipe pet's paws off when they come inside
- Park cars on a paved area or in one place, as parking cars in the yard stops grass from growing, which creates bare soil and dust



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LEAD IN THE GARDEN

KEEPING KIDS AND PETS SAFE

KEEP children under six years old away from soil that contains lead

WATCH over small children to stop them from eating dirt through hand to mouth play

PETS can bring leaded dirt in the house on their fur & paws

WASH face and hands immediately after gardening and before eating

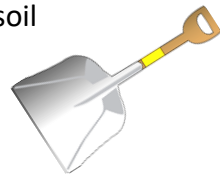
AVOID TRACKING leaded soil into the home by:

- Cleaning tools, gloves & shoes off before bringing them indoors
- Putting dirty clothes in a bag before bringing them indoors and wash them in a separate load
- Washing off excess soil from crops, especially root crops and leafy vegetables before bringing them indoors



WHERE TO LOCATE YOUR GARDEN

- **LOCATE** your garden away from pre-1978 homes and roads with heavy traffic as soil is likely to contain lead
- **TEST** your soil to determine if it contains lead
- **BUILD** raised beds or container gardens with clean soil
- **MULCH OR COMPOST** your garden. Place landscape fabric between the ground soil and the new, clean soil



CHOOSING YOUR CROPS

- **THE BEST PLANTS** are those that produce fruiting bodies like tomatoes, squash, apple and pear trees, and berries
- **CAUTION SHOULD BE USED** with root and tuber crops like carrots, potatoes and onions as the edible portion of the crops are in direct contact with the leaded soil
- **LEAFY VEGETABLES** like cabbage, lettuce and collard greens are easily contaminated by dust and soil splash back, so careful washing is important



LEAVING THE SOIL IN THE GARDEN

- **THROW AWAY** the outer leaves of greens, especially from the bottom of plants before washing
- **WASH** your crops with running water and peel crops when appropriate.
- **WEAR** gloves as a barrier between your hands and the soil
- **REMOVE SOIL** from garden tools and harvested crops while at the garden, and change your shoes before going indoors. or mulch.

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