

LEAD POISONING

LEAD IN SOIL

Ways To Reduce Lead In Soil

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

Play Areas

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

Vegetable Gardens

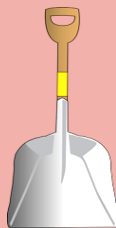
- Replace top 10" of soil with clean soil
- Keep soil moist to limit dust
- Scrub any vegetables grown in the garden before eating
- Keep soil from being too acidic
- Wear gloves when working in soil

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 paint chipping and falling
- 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-contaminated dirt from walkways into the home
- Cover dirt 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. 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 in their mouths, hands & faces
- People bring in lead from outside on their shoes
- Pets can bring home leaded dirt 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 dirt and dust



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