

Keeping Kids Safe and Healthy...

...in the Yard



We take great care to protect our children from hazards inside the home. But it's easy to overlook another area where children spend a lot of their time—the yard. This guide can help you to identify hazards in your yard. Follow the tips included to make your yard a safe place for the

whole family. Three tips to remember:

- 1) always supervise your children;
- 2) wash children's hands and faces after they have been playing in the yard, or before eating or drinking; and
- 3) make sure your kids have a safe play area in the yard.

Do you have any of the following in or around your home, yard, garden or garage?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old Play, Yard, and Farm Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Problems or Rodents | <input type="checkbox"/> Piles of Scrap Metal or Glass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Electrical Outlets or Wires | <input type="checkbox"/> Older Home (Pre-1978) | <input type="checkbox"/> Deck made of Treated Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pools, Ponds and Standing Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic System | <input type="checkbox"/> Unused Well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stored Chemicals or Pesticides | <input type="checkbox"/> High Traffic Street | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Well |

If so, there may be hazards in your garage or yard. Use this guide to identify potential hazards to your family and protect them from illness or injury. This brochure covers the topic areas of:

Play Area Safety

Hazards Next to the House

Chemicals in Your Garage/Yard

Keeping it Clean

Water/Well Safety



For more information on any of these topics contact your local health department or the Wisconsin Division of Public Health



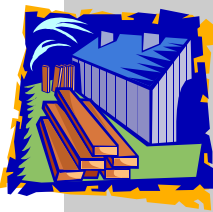

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Phone: (608) 266-1120 Fax: (608) 267-4853







<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/environmental/index.htm>

Keeping Kids Safe and Healthy:

Hazard:	What to Look For:	How to Avoid or Eliminate the Hazard:
<p>Falls, Cuts and Infections</p>	<p><u>Scrap metal and glass:</u> Sharp, rusty metal and broken glass. Old, rusted appliances. Scrap lumber with nails. Poor condition of sheds or garages: caving roof, broken support beams, stuck doors.</p> <p><u>Unsafe climbing options near play area:</u> Small trees. Rock walls. Tall piles of debris and waste. Wood or other piles next to buildings.</p> <p><u>Older, unsafe play, yard and farm equipment:</u> Old, rusted out play equipment. Sagging swing sets. Broken safety features. Children playing on farm or yard equipment not intended for play.</p>	<p>Remove nails from scrap lumber and only keep what can be reused. Clean up broken glass. Do not store scrap material in yard. Repair or remove buildings that are falling apart. Replace broken windows and lock doors to areas off-limits to children. Remove doors from old appliances.</p> <p>Provide children with a designated play area away from unsafe climbing options.</p> <p>Inspect and maintain play equipment. Check for sharp edges. Remove and replace broken or unsafe equipment. Always supervise children in the yard. Do not allow children to play on or around yard or farm equipment. Cover play areas with a one foot bed of mulch or other cushioning material.</p>
<p>Electric Shock and Burn</p> 	<p>Low power lines. Uncovered outdoor outlets. Outdoor extension cords. Exposed wiring. Power lines near play equipment and climbing trees.</p>	<p>Keep play structures away from power lines and poles. Call your utility company before you dig. Inspect all outdoor wiring, contact electrician for assistance bringing it up to code. Use "Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter" or GFCI outlets and proper covers for all outdoor outlets.</p>
<p>Sunburns</p>	<p>Kids playing outside or working outdoors between hours of 11 am and 3 pm.</p> 	<p>Restrict children's time outdoors during peak sun hours (11 am - 3 pm). When possible, wear hats, sunglasses, or lightweight long sleeved clothing. Apply sunscreen with appropriate SPF to children, following manufacturer's instructions. Locate play equipment in shady area of yard.</p>
<p>Arsenic Poisoning from Pressure Treated Lumber</p> 	<p>Deck or play equipment made with unpainted/unsealed, older, or cracked green wood treated with CCA (copper chromium arsenate).</p>	<p>Wash hands after playing outdoors and before food preparation or eating. Seal wood structures every two years with an oil-based sealant. Never burn or compost treated wood scraps or sawdust. Use tablecloths on picnic tables. Do not allow children to play under wood structures.</p>
<p>Car Accidents and Crashes</p>	<p>Play equipment or toys near street. Parked cars decreasing visibility. Dangerous intersections. Blind driveways. No sidewalks. Poor street lighting. Home on or near busy streets.</p>	<p>Move children's play area away from street. Watch kids when they are playing in areas near the street. Encourage city to improve street lighting and signage. Supervise children, especially at night.</p> 





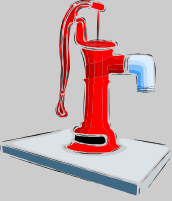

Play Area Safety

Health Tips for Your Yard

	Hazard:	What to Look For:	How to Avoid or Eliminate the Hazard:
Hazards Next to the House	Lead Poisoning from Exterior Lead Paint	<p>Paint chips in bare soil. Home/garage built before 1978. Chipped/cracked/peeling paint on porches, home exterior, or garage.</p> 	<p>Locate play areas away from porch or exterior walls of home or garage. Maintain healthy grass without bare soil. Wash kids' hands and faces after playing outdoors and before eating. Maintain painted surfaces on your home, porch and garage. Sample soil for lead. Test child's blood for lead at one and two years of age.</p>
	Insect and Rodent Bites and Disease	 <p><u>Rodents, dead animals, or insects:</u> Droppings. Disturbed garbage and compost. Skunk odor. Signs of burrowing.</p> <p><u>Roaches, beetles, earwigs, ants, and mice:</u> Piles of wood, leaves, or shrubs and mulch closer than 18 inches from side of house.</p> <p><u>Mosquitoes:</u> Standing water in gutters, buckets, potted plants, ditches, driveways, tires, trash cans, garbage, bird baths, or decorative ponds</p> 	<p>Repair any openings in buildings where animals and insects can enter. Remove food sources. Contact pest control for assistance if necessary. Use garbage containers with tightly fitting tops. Do not stack firewood against home or garage. Remove hay or straw mulches around foundations. Clean up under and around bird feeders. Keep bird feed in metal containers with tight fitting lids.</p> <p>Clean up after your pet. Clean up piles of wood, litter, and garbage. Clean gutters. Replace water in bird baths weekly. Stock decorative ponds with fish. Point drain spout away from house. Do not allow water to pool in trash cans, flower pots or other containers. Drain and turn over children's pools while not in use. Inspect children for ticks, especially in areas where deer are common.</p>
Chemicals in Your Garage/Yard	Chemical Burns and Poisonings	<p>Spilled chemicals. Stains under shelves. Leaking containers. Flammables stored next to heat/flame. Saving chemicals that are no longer used. Antifreeze spills (bright green liquid on the ground).</p> 	<p>Keep only chemicals you will use/need. Remove and properly dispose of stained soils. Repair vehicle leaks promptly. Store vehicle fluids and chemicals out of reach of kids and pets and away from heat or flame. Store chemicals in original containers with labels intact, never in old food or drink containers. Do not store waste oil. Take used oil to a recycling center, never pour it on the ground, in the storm sewer or down the drain. Keep pets and kids away from antifreeze spills.</p>
	Pesticide Poisoning	<p>Property was an orchard. Stained soils with no vegetation. History of soil sampling for pesticides on the property. Pesticides stored for a long time, leaking, or with original labels missing.</p> 	<p>Use pest management methods that rely less on chemicals. When using pesticides, read and follow directions on label. Store pesticides out of reach of children and pets. Do not stockpile: buy only what you will use. When applying pesticides, keep kids and pets away and do not smoke or eat. Wear personal protection (gloves, goggles, mask) when mixing/applying pesticides. Properly dispose of soil when pesticides have been spilled. Maintain healthy grass. Wash hands and face before eating.</p>
	Lead/Chemical Poisoning from Auto Exhaust	<p>Homes along older, busy streets. Sample soil for lead to know for sure.</p> 	<p>Do not allow children to play near the street. Cover exposed/bare soil with grass, vegetation or other material (e.g. mulch). Wash hands and face before eating. Remove contaminated soils.</p>

Keeping Kids Safe and Healthy:

Health Tips for Your Yard

	Hazard:	What to Look For:	How to Avoid or Eliminate the Hazard:
Keeping it Clean	Disease Transmission from Improper Composting	Strong odor from compost. Non-degradable materials in compost. Composting animal or human wastes.	Learn what can and can't be composted. Maintain air flow to compost. Limit accessibility to wildlife. Limit exposure to compost piles if you or family members have lung conditions or immune sensitivity.
	Rodent Infestations from Trash and Garbage Problems	Garbage accessible to animals. Infrequent removal of garbage. Poor condition of garbage containers.	Use garbage containers with tight fitting lids. Do not store garbage longer than necessary. Store in garage until pickup day if animals are a problem. 
	Disease Transmission from Failing Septic System	Odor from vent or drain field. Wet ground or ponding around drain field. Greener grass over the drain field or tank. Septic system not maintained.	 Schedule regular maintenance, including pumping and inspection. Do not pour chemicals into septic system. Contact septic system professionals for assistance.
	Disease Transmission from Gray Water (dirty water from clothes washer, bathtub, or sink drains)	Visible discharge pipe. Ponding water near home. Localized patches of green or dead grass. 	Direct discharges back into septic or sanitary sewer. Do not allow children near discharges. Contact plumber for assistance. "Gray water" can be just as hazardous as "black water" that comes from toilets. Gray water should never be discharged to the ground surface.
Water/Well Safety	Drowning	Decorative ponds. Pools of all sizes. Nearby waterways. Ditches carrying rainwater. Standing water.	Watch children at all times near pools or other open water. Drain unused or unattended pools and prevent unsupervised children from having access to them. 
	Bacterial Contamination and Risk of Falls and Entrapment in Water Wells	 Clutter around well head. Rainwater or agricultural runoff draining toward well. Open or cracked well cap. Contaminant sources near well. Unused well or pit. 	<u>Current Private Well:</u> Keep the area around the well clean. Test private wells for bacteria and nitrate once a year, and arsenic at least once. Landscape area around the well so rain and other runoff flows away from the well. Keep vegetation away from the cap. Inspect the cap annually for cracks or damage. <u>Abandoned/Unused Well:</u> Properly abandon or close wells using guidelines from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Remove hand pumps from unused wells. Get assistance from a well driller or pump installer if necessary.