



What to know about Lead in Soil

Lead-contaminated soil is a hazardous source of lead exposure for young children.

Deposits from leaded gasoline, exterior lead-based paint, mines, and factories have contributed to the lead level of soil over time. This is especially common in urban areas, the properties of homes built before 1978, and areas with old or current lead mines.

Have concerns? Get your soil tested and **take steps to avoid exposure.**

Children can be exposed to lead in soil when playing in bare dirt or gardens. They can also be exposed to lead when soil is tracked into a house or rental unit on boots or clothes.

These exposures happen when children accidentally touch or consume soil while playing outside or on the floors of a building.

The only way to know if a child has been exposed to lead is with a blood lead test. Talk to your doctor today.

To learn more about sources of lead and childhood blood lead testing, scan the QR code, or visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/index.htm.



Don't track soil in from the outside. Take off your shoes before entering your home. This stops lead from being tracked inside. You can also place a mat in front of the door to catch debris.

Cover exposed soil and limit children's access. Plant grass or put down mulch over bare soil. Prevent children from playing in bare soil until it is covered.

Avoid growing fruits or vegetables in contaminated soil. If you're not sure whether your soil contains lead, gardening in a raised bed or container is a good alternative.

