Prescriptions for Prevention

Lead in Soil

Soil near roadways, industrial sites, excavation and construction sites or the exterior of homes built before 1978 may be contaminated with high levels of lead that is hazardous to health.

Did you know?

Lead naturally occurs in soil at low levels

Action Plan

- Always wash your child's hands after playing outside. Don't allow your child to play in bare soil. Cover any bare soil patches with grass, mulch or wood chips. Prevent your child from eating dirt or putting their hands in their mouth when they are playing outside.
- Test your soil for lead before gardening. Learn how to collect a soil sample for testing.
- Homes built before 1978 may contain peeling lead paint on the exterior. To avoid lead exposure, keep children away from the soil within 3 feet from the building.
- Take off your shoes or wipe them down when entering your home and use doormats to prevent lead contaminated soil from being tracked throughout your home. Wipe down pets that go outside to further prevent exposure.
- If you garden, wear gloves and wash your hands. Dampen the soil with water to limit the amount of dust you inhale. Plant edible fruits and vegetables at least 5 feet away from the house.

Created in partnership with:

Get the Lead OUT Riverwards Philadelphia

The Foundation for Delaware County

children FIRST The Advocate for Kids



Questions? Call 215-573-9076 or email **prcceh@pennmedicine.upenn.edu**
For more resources, visit us at **prcceh.upenn.edu**

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