



# LEAD IN SOIL

## Why is there lead in soil?

- Lead paint peeling off in pieces from old painted buildings.
- Car exhaust that left a layer of lead when leaded gasoline was used.
- Industrial sources—factories that make lead batteries or brass
- Small amounts of lead may happen naturally



## How do I know if my soil has lead in it?

- You can have your soil tested to find out if there is lead present.
- Certified laboratories can perform the test on the soil.
- Many samples need to be collected for the test to determine the amount of contamination.



## What does my soil test result mean?

Soil Lead Level	Level of Lead Contamination mg/kg or ppm
Less than 150	None to very low
From 150 to 400	Low
From 400 to 1,000	Medium
From 1,000 to 2,000	High
Greater than 2,000	Very high

- When the soil has medium lead contamination or higher, you should take measures to limit exposure to that area.

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
Unified Government Public Health Department  
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### What can I do to protect my children from lead in soil?

- Keep children away from foundations of old houses or buildings.
- Plant grass or bushes around the house and over bare soil.
- Cover bare soil with grass seed, mulch, or wood chips.
- Use mats or bark mulch to cover dirt under swings and slides.
- Build a new sandbox, and fill it with clean sand. Have children play in the sandbox instead of the dirt. Make sure the sandbox stays covered to keep it clean.
- Use a door mat and leave shoes outside to keep dirt from getting in your home.
- Turn over and break up the soil to weaken the amount of lead. Then plant grass or shrubs.
- Wash your children's hands and face after playing outside, especially before eating or drinking.



### What should I do about my garden?

- Keep your garden away from old buildings and roads.
- Add lime to lower the acidity of the soil.
- Wash or peel vegetables before eating them, or grow vegetables in pots using new soil.

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