



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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Burlington Lead Program (802) 865-LEAD

Easy Treatments for Soil

Soil around older homes is often contaminated from deteriorated lead-based paint. Any bare soil with concentrations of lead greater than 400 parts per million is considered hazardous for contact by children. To minimize the risk, a variety of options are available. Described below are some of the options, but any type of treatment that either lowers the level of lead or minimizes the contact by children will generally help minimize the risk.

Temporary Treatments (interim controls)

- Cover bare soil areas with bark mulch, gravel, or additional top soil
- Roto-till soil to lower surface concentration of lead
- Plant grass or groundcover to eliminate bare soil spots

Permanent Treatments (abatement)

- Soil Removal (note: soil removed must be disposed of according to VT hazardous waste rules)
- Durable coverings such as concrete, asphalt or paving stones

Usage Controls

- Establish safe play areas away from contamination
- Install fences to limit access to contamination
- Plant bushes, shrubs, flower beds to limit access to contamination
- Install sidewalks or paving stones if walkways must cross contaminated areas

Gardens

- Never plant edible vegetables in areas of contamination. (flowers and ornamentals are OK)

Children

- Never allow children to play in bare soil areas contaminated by lead.
- Wash children's hands frequently

Pets

- Do not place pet pens or tie-outs in areas of contamination.
- Do not let pets dig near foundations.

Your Home

- Remove shoes at the door
- Regularly clean your floors to remove dust tracked in from outside
- Place walk-off type door mats or tack mats near entrances

Please call the Burlington Lead Program at (802) 865-LEAD (5323) if you have any questions.