



Lead Poisoning Prevention News

Orange County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Spring 2015

In This Issue

Lead-Safe Home Gardening

Lead Facts

Crops & Lead

Lead in Soil

**National Poisoning
Prevention Week**
March 15 - 21, 2014

Children Act Fast and So Do
Poisons...



In the News

The Cal-OSHA standards have changed how employers must warn employees about lead hazards. Effective June 1, 2016 lead work area signs and labels for lead contaminated clothing and equipment must now include specific language about central nervous system and reproductive health effects of lead. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must also include new language.

For more info:

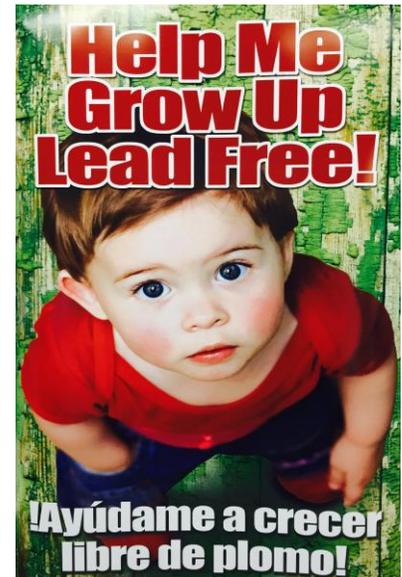
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/olppp



Lead-Safe Urban and Home Gardening

How to reduce lead exposure and protect your family

Home and urban gardening have experienced a revival among communities across America. The increased benefits of farm-to-table meals are sustainability, access to locally grown quality food and consumption of a variety of nutritious fruits and vegetables. However, benefits can be overshadowed by foods grown in lead-contaminated soil. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), lead poisoning remains the number one environmental health threat to children ages six and younger in the U.S. Lead is a heavy metal and can hurt children and unborn babies. Even small amounts of lead in the body can make it hard for children to learn, pay attention and succeed in school. While a low level of lead is naturally present in soil, human activities have contributed to toxic concentrations. These activities include the previous use of leaded gasoline, phased out during the mid-1990s for the use of on-road vehicles, residential lead-based paint on buildings built before 1978 and industrial emissions in some areas. Soil can be contaminated from previously flaked off, scraped, sanded or disturbed lead-based paint. Here are some considerations to help reduce lead exposure in urban and home gardens:



Carefully choose the garden location

- Consider all possible historic sources of lead or other contaminants on your property
- Avoid planting in or using soil from locations next to buildings built before 1978
- Consider using raised beds. Make sure all containers are made from lead-free materials

Assume there is lead in the soil

- Cover all bare soil in pathways, play-areas and non-growing areas
- Bring in clean soil, and add in new compost or other organic materials

Protect young children from bare soil

- Monitor children's play areas and wet mop floors and wet-wipe window sills
- Always wash hands before eating or sleeping and regularly wash toys
- Always wash fruits and vegetables before eating or cooking

Lead & Crops

Below-ground crops such as potatoes, radishes, beets, and carrots take up the most lead and also are a concern because lead in soil adheres to the skin of these root veggies.

Leafing crops such as lettuce, kale and spinach take up some lead and may have lead containing dust on the edible leaves.

Above-ground crops such as strawberries, beans, squash, tomatoes, and fruit trees are the least likely to accumulate any lead.

The U.S. EPA announced 62 enforcement actions that require renovation contractors and training providers to protect people from harmful exposure to lead dust and debris as required by EPA's Lead-based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) standards. This enforcement action includes 55 settlements and 6 complaints issued between February and October of 2014. The settlements led to \$213,171 in civil penalties.

For more info:

www.epa.gov/lead

Useful Lead Links

www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/family/lppp

Orange County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CLP/PB

California Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch

www.epa.gov/lead

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

www.hud.gov/offices/lead
U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control

www.cpsc.gov

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

www.anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu
University of California Davis Agriculture and Natural Resources Communication Services

www.oehha.ca.gov
California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

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Lead In Soil: Considerations and Guidelines

Lead-contaminated soil is a common source of lead exposure and can be a risk factor for lead poisoning. When children play outdoors, lead-contaminated soil and dust can get on hands, clothes, toys and food. Younger children tend to have normal hand-to-mouth behavior that increases their risk of lead ingestion. Once lead enters the body it is cumulative and is stored in the bones and tissues. Lead is more likely to be found in the soil near busy roadways, factories or in communities with pre-1978 housing. Therefore children should not have contact with contaminated soil in play areas. Here are some ways to protect your family from lead in bare soil.



- Use barriers to cover bare soil in beds and in non-growing areas with materials available such as gravel, stones, wood chips, grass or pavers to reduce children's exposure to soil.
- Plant drought tolerant ground covers such as sage varieties, wild strawberry, silver carpet or lavender. This not only reduces soil splash and minimizes dust, but also prevents tracking of soil into the home.
- Practice taking off shoes before entering your home to prevent bringing lead soil indoors from outside.



- Consider having your soil tested for lead and other toxins such as cadmium, mercury and arsenic. Be aware that test results can vary greatly in different locations within the same yard. Also keep in mind that not all labs can test for lead and the cost can vary.



Learn About Lead in Soil Guidelines:

- Trace levels of lead are present in U.S agricultural soils at **10-30 parts per million (ppm)** (Holmgren et al., 1993).
- California established **80 ppm** as the residential soil screening level for lead. This model estimates a concentration in soil that would lead to an increase in blood lead level of 1 ug/dL, in children exposed to that soil (OEHHA, 2009).
- Federal and California agencies set **400 ppm** of lead as the "hazard level for bare soil in play areas".
- California agencies set **1,000 ppm or greater** as the hazard level for bare soil in non-play areas.
- Federal agencies consider **1,200 ppm or greater** as the hazard level for bare soil in non-play areas.

Get the Facts visit:

www.ochealthinfo.com/eh/more/lead

Children under age 6 are most at risk for lead poisoning.

Prevent lead poisoning. Get your home tested. Get your child tested. Get the facts!

Was your house painted before 1978? Protect your family from lead exposure.

Remodeling the home? Renovate Right with lead-safe work practices.

ppm=parts per million=1 milligram lead (Pb) per kilogram soil (mg/kg) concentration of lead from soil test