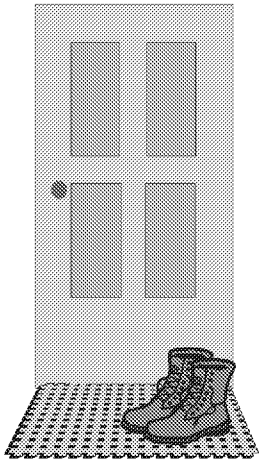
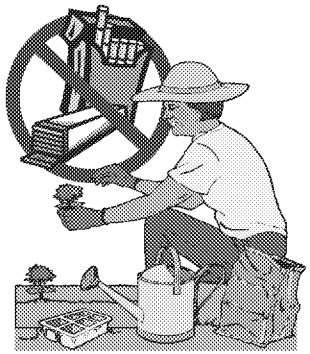
DON'T LET KIDS PLAY IN DIRT – they could be exposed to high levels of lead.

What is lead and why is it dangerous

Do not let children play in bare dirt



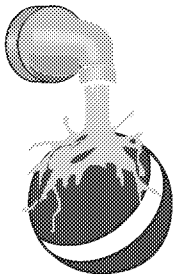
Children and adults should remove shoes before walking into home



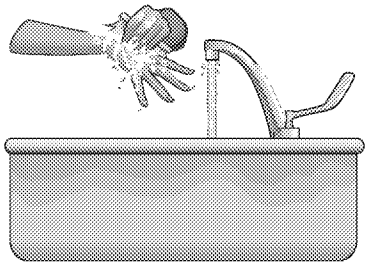
Don't eat food, chew gum, or smoke when working in the yard and wear gloves

Damp mop floors and damp dust counters and furniture regularly

Wash dogs regularly



Wash children's toys and babies' pacifiers regularly



Wash children's hands and feet after they have been playing outside

EPA

USS Lead Site
Zone 1

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

What is lead and why is it dangerous?

Lead is a naturally occurring heavy metal. It is commonly found at low levels in soil. Low levels of lead can be found in the air, water, food and dust in cities because of the widespread use of lead in man-made products. The federal government regulates the amount of lead in the air, water and soil.

Lead is highly toxic and can cause a range of health effects, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities to seizures and death. Children 6 years old and younger are most at-risk because their bodies are growing quickly and the effects of the lead can cause problems. Children often have higher levels of exposure because they play in dirt and may put dirty hands in their mouths. Also, children who lack proper nutrition may absorb more lead and suffer more harmful effects.

Eating or swallowing soil that contains lead is a common way of getting lead into your body. Children get lead in their bodies when they put their hands, toys or other items covered with lead dust in their mouths. When lead gets into your body, it may cause health problems.

Do not let children play in dirt that contains high amounts of lead.

- Have children play on grass or in areas covered with lead-free mulch, wood chips or sand.
- Keep children from playing in bare dirt.
- Cover bare dirt with grass, bushes or 4 to 6 inches of lead-free wood chips, mulch, soil or sand.

Protect your family from lead-based paint in the yard.

- Keep your family, especially young children, away from areas in the yard where paint is peeling or chipping, such as from old porches, fences, or houses.
- Do not try to remove lead paint yourself unless you have been trained to follow lead-safe work practices. Hire a professional lead specialist who follows lead-safe work practices.
- If you paint over lead-based paint, use special paint that will seal in the old paint.

Keep children's hands and toys clean.

- Wash children's hands before they eat any food if they have been playing outside.
- When eating outdoors, always eat in an area where there is no bare soil.
- Do not let your children put toys, dirty hands, paint chips, or other things that might have lead dust on them into their mouths

USS Lead Site
East Chicago, IN

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