



Department of Plant and Soil Science

May 2020

Dear Customer:

Your soil metals analysis showed lead in your soil at a level higher than the normal background level. Recommended precautions for soil lead are based on TOTAL lead concentration, which is usually higher (typically 5 times) than the EXTRACTABLE lead screening value in your report.

Recommended precautions following are interpreted from EPA guidelines on **total** lead concentration and are adapted to EXTRATABLE lead concentrations on your report.

Level found	Contamination level	Recommended Precautions		
		Ornamentals/lawns	Vegetable gardens	Play areas
≥ 2.1 - < 9.5	Low	None needed	Wash all Vegetables Wash and peel root crops.	None needed
≥9.5 - < 30	Slight	None needed	Wash all vegetables. Wash & peel root crops.	Move play area to uncontaminated site.
≥ 30 - ≤ 75	Moderate	None needed	Grow fruiting vegetables. Avoid leafy vegetables. Avoid root crops. Wash vegetables thoroughly. Keep soil pH 6.5 - 7.0. Add manure/compost each year.	Move play area to uncontaminated site. Have blood lead level tested.
> 75	Heavy	Avoid breathing dust during cultivation. Mulch or maintain grass cover to keep down dust/rain spatter.	Move garden to uncontaminated area or bring in clean soil to build new garden.	Move play area to uncontaminated site. Have blood lead level tested.

The above are only general suggested guidelines, since every case and the potential for exposure to or intake of lead is different. Lead contamination is first and foremost a concern with children, since they are the most sensitive to lead toxicity and because of their greater likelihood of exposure from play habits, etc. To add some perspective, the soil levels listed above are nowhere near as high as lead paint chips, which may contain more than 3 to 5 <u>percent</u> lead (30,000-50,000 ppm). However, prolonged exposure to areas of heavy soil contamination can significantly add to the total intake of lead for those individuals working or playing in it or eating unwashed produce from it. Our ultimate purpose is not to alarm you, but to inform you of a potential problem.

If you have further questions or would like to do additional testing, please contact us.

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