

# Lead in Your Yard

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Your yard's soil may have lead in it. Lead can come from old paint peeling off buildings, exhaust from older vehicles that used leaded gasoline, or nearby factories that worked with lead. Follow these steps to help keep you and your family safe from lead exposure in your yard.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact [AHS.HealthyHomes@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.HealthyHomes@vermont.gov).

## Keep Your Yard Lead-Safe



- Keep your lawn healthy and well covered with grass.
- Cover any bare soil within 3 feet of your home's foundation (the "drip zone") with 4 to 6 inches of mulch, gravel, stone or other clean material.
- Park vehicles on paved or gravel driveways. Parking on the lawn can kill grass and expose contaminated soil.
- Reduce dust and dirt by creating walkways with concrete, stone, brick, gravel or woodchips.
- Put play areas on grassy parts of the yard that are away from buildings.
- Keep children from walking around while eating, and make sure they do not eat food that has fallen on the ground.
- If you have a sandbox, fill it with clean sand and keep it covered when it's not in use.
- If you garden in soil with high lead levels, grow crops that absorb less lead, like tomatoes, peppers, beans or peas. You can also use raised beds filled with clean soil.

## Keep Lead from Coming Indoors



- Pay attention to where pets and farm animals dig, sleep and play in your yard. They can uncover bare soil in the yard and bring contaminated soil into your home.
- Remove shoes at the door.
- Have everyone wash their hands after coming inside.

# Lead in Your Yard

Take steps to lower the risk of lead exposure in your yard. Contaminated soil and dust can create lead hazards. The areas closest to your house are higher risk.

## ✓ Lower risk yard:

## ✗ Higher risk yard:

