Healthy yard

Lawn areas cover dirt and reduce dust

Drip zone has plants and mulch to cover the ground

Walkways to prevent dirt and dust

Play areas with clean dirt, sand or grass

Cars are confined to driveway area

Is your yard lead proof?

Poor grass condition with large areas of exposed contaminated dirt

Play areas are located near fallen paint chips

Cars parking on areas that should be grass and turning it to dust and dirt

No vegetation or mulch covering the contaminated soil around the foundation.
The Drip Zone

This narrow 3 foot strip around the foundation is usually where the most contaminated soil can be found. This is because paint chips containing lead have fallen to the ground and over the years have mixed with the top layer of soil. Although total removal of contaminated soil is preferred, an easier alternative is covering this strip area with mulch.

Play Areas

Play areas can be made safer just by properly locating them in the yard. Swing sets and sand boxes should be located away from the drip zone where the most contaminated soils are found. Sand used in the sand box should be clean, uncontaminated material. When playing in the sand, kids sometimes put toys and/or their hands in their mouth, so the sand box should be covered to prevent lead dust contamination when not in use. Soil should be tested in areas where kids are playing.

Cover sand when not in use to keep clean.

One or two landscape timbers to retain sand.

6" to 8" of clean sand.

8" to 10" of soil beneath sand should be removed and replaced with clean, uncontaminated soil.

Small plastic self contained sand box.

Plastic tarp cover.
Walkways

Worn dirt paths create dust. In areas where people regularly walk, paving will limit dust and dirt. Professional contractors can provide concrete walks or stone paths. A homeowner can place woodchips or heavy gravel to minimize dust.

Parking Areas

Cars parked all over the yard destroy the grass that covers lead contaminated soil. Driveways and parking lots (especially for multi-housing units buildings) should confine parking to a designated area that is either paved or has a gravel cover.
Lawn Areas

A healthy lawn is one of the best ways to reduce exposure to lead contaminated soils. Of course, a lawn requires routine maintenance with water and fertilizer to keep it healthy, but it is still the most practical solution for those who want to use their yards for playing and relaxing.

**NEWLY SEEDED AREAS**
(SMALLER AREAS UNDER 100 SF)

**STEP 1**
Turn over top 3"-4" of soil and cultivate into a fine loose texture.

**STEP 2**
Rake smooth, add one part peat moss to three parts soil into top 2 inches. Lightly rake grass seed into loam / peat mixture.

**STEP 3**
Water seed immediately. Supply plenty of moisture over the next 2 to 3 weeks. Best seeding time is early spring or early fall.

**STEP 4**
Protect newly seeded areas for 3 to 4 weeks. Grass can be walked on after 2 or 3 cuttings.

**SEED SELECTION**
Grass seed selection will depend on available light. A red fescue will provide a durable drought resistant lawn area. Weed control will allow stronger root growth of grass and provide for a greener lawn.

**NEWLY SEEDED AREAS**
(LARGER AREAS OVER 100 SF)

For larger areas, it is best to rent a roto-tiller from the local hardware store or equipment rental store. The key to good root growth is deep cultivated soil. Important: Keep soil moist during cultivation to prevent dust.

**CORNERS THAT WEAR OUT**

Set 6"-8" stones (large potato size) into compacted gravel. Wash sand or stone dust into voids 10" lock in stones.

For More Information