Interpreting Soil Lead Concentrations

In parts per million (ppm)

Greater than 1,200 ppm: Soil at or above this level is not safe for any use with children. Contact EPA at: (215) 814-3178 for more information

Do not garden in soil at or above 1000 ppm

Greater than 400 ppm: Avoid growing low-growing leafy vegetables which are difficult to clean. Children should not be playing in this soil. Safe as a play area if soil covered (i.e. grass)

We recommend
Take shoes off before entering a home
Wash hands after outdoor play
Change clothes after outdoor play
Wet dust and mop homes
Wash dust and dirt off porches and sidewalks
Purchase a HEPA (high efficiency filter) vacuum cleaner

Greater than 200 ppm: Soil lead levels in many urban areas exceed this level.


Less than 150 ppm: Safe to garden and children to play. All food crops are safe to grow.

Less than 50 ppm: Soil naturally contains lead concentrations less than this level.

Questions about your soil lead levels? Call us at: 215.898.6221

Do not garden in soil at or above 1000 ppm

Soil lead levels between 400 and 1000 ppm can be unhealthy especially for children under six years of age because they are growing rapidly and tend to put their hands and objects in their mouth.

In parts per million (ppm)

Less than 50 ppm: Soil naturally contains lead concentrations less than this level.

Greater than 200 ppm: Soil lead levels in many urban areas exceed this level.


Less than 150 ppm: Safe to garden and children to play. All food crops are safe to grow.