

Contamination from the Exide Battery Plant:

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Soil Testing for Lead in Homes around Exide

Exide's operations resulted in the release of harmful levels of lead and arsenic into the environment in the communities surrounding Exide's former Vernon facility. To protect the public's health, specially-trained workers are taking these actions:

<p>ACTION 1</p> <h2>FIND</h2>  <p>Quickly find contaminated areas.</p>	<p>ACTION 2</p> <h2>CLEAN</h2>  <p>Facilitate lead removal and cleaning of homes, yards, and public spaces.</p>	<p>ACTION 3</p> <h2>INFORM</h2>  <p>Provide information, health screenings, and other resources to community members.</p>
--	---	---

This sheet relates to **Action 1: Quickly Find Contaminated Areas**. Testing soil for lead is the only way to find areas that need to be cleaned up. Read more about the benefits of getting your home's soil tested for lead.

1. How can lead affect my health?

Eating lead or breathing excessive levels of lead dust can cause lead poisoning. This can hurt the brain, kidneys, liver, and other organs. Kids less than 6 years old and pregnant women are at higher risk. In kids, lead poisoning affects their growth, learning, and behavior. In pregnant women, lead poisoning may cause high blood pressure, the baby to be born too early (premature birth), or losing the baby (miscarriage).

Most people who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick. The only way to know if you have lead poisoning is with a blood lead test. Signs of possible lead poisoning include headaches, nausea, weakness, and trouble eating, sleeping, or paying attention.

2. Why should I test my soil for lead?

High levels of lead have been found in some soil samples taken from properties near Exide. Families can be exposed to this lead by playing in or walking on the affected soil, bringing it into the house on their shoes, or by eating unwashed fruit or vegetables grown in the soil. Pets might also bring lead into the home from the soil outside.

Testing your soil for lead will help you:

- Know if the soil around your home has high levels of lead;
- Learn how to lower your exposure to lead if it is found in your soil; and
- Assure that your home is identified and prioritized for future clean-up activities.

**All testing and clean-up will be at NO COST to the property owner or tenants.
To test your soil, call 844-225-3887.**

3. What happens after my soil is tested for lead?

After your soil is tested, if elevated levels of lead that pose a health concern are present, your property will be placed into one of three priority categories identified by the California Department of Toxic Substance Control. The yards with the highest lead levels and greatest risk of exposure people to lead, will be cleaned up first.

Priority Level	Definition
Priority 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yards with soil lead levels over 1,000 parts per million.• These levels found anywhere on the property are viewed as a health hazard and will be cleaned up first.
Priority 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yards with soil lead levels between 400 parts per million and 1,000 parts per million.• Areas where kids play that have these levels are viewed as a health hazard and will be cleaned up after Priority 1.
Priority 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yards with soil lead levels between 80 parts per million and 400 parts per million.• These areas will still be included for clean-up after Priority 1 and 2.

4. What can I do to protect my family until the soil is cleaned up?

- Do not let kids play on bare soil, when possible
- Take off shoes before coming into your home
- Wet mop floors instead of dry sweeping
- Wipe windowsills and other surfaces where dust collects with a wet cloth
- Wash hands and toys often
- Request a free blood lead test. Call the **Blood Lead Screening Hotline at 844-888-2290**. Free blood lead testing is available to any person who lives, works, or goes to school in the communities near Exide. All results are confidential.