



Soil Sampling Complete; Investigation Continues

Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment

Chicago, Illinois

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For more information

For questions, comments or for more information about the Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment, contact these U.S. EPA team members.

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You may call the EPA toll-free:
800-621-8431, weekdays,
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Website:

www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/pilsenareasoils/

To see fact sheets on protecting yourself and your family from potential lead contamination visit: www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen/.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently finished four rounds of soil sampling in a number of residential yards and other properties throughout the Pilsen neighborhood. EPA recently sent letters to property owners with the results of soil samples taken from their property. The letters included information on how residents can limit possible exposure to lead contamination while EPA continues its investigation.

There are many potential sources of lead in soil, including industrial air emissions, lead-based paint, past emissions from the use of leaded gasoline, lead solder, car batteries and some types of pesticides. U.S. EPA has not yet determined the specific sources of the Pilsen-area lead contamination.

Next steps

EPA continues to analyze the soil samples collected. Property owners with elevated levels of lead in their yards were given steps they could take to protect their families. Those steps are listed below. Residents whose properties have not been sampled and who have concerns about possible lead contamination in their soil can follow these simple steps to protect themselves and their families:

- Cover exposed soil with grass, mulch, gravel or pavement to reduce the possibility of coming into direct contact with lead-contaminated soil. (In the 25th Ward, contact Alderman Daniel Solis' office at 773-523-4100 or daniel.solis@cityofchicago.org for information on free mulch.)
- Take off shoes before entering homes to keep from tracking soil inside.
- Wash hands thoroughly before preparing food, eating or drinking.
- Garden in raised beds filled with clean soil purchased from a nursery or garden store.

Further analysis of the soil samples should be completed in early 2014. EPA will present those results to the community. However, information on individual properties will remain confidential in order to protect the rights of property owners.