



Maui Wildfire Recovery

Frequently Asked Questions About Using Soiltac® Soil Stabilizer on top Properties dat Get Ash and Debris

November 1, 2023

So much Maui give to da world. As guests, we honored fo give our support back.

Da ash and debris on top da properties affected by wildfires on Maui can harm da wildlife, marine life, and people's health, because might get harmful contaminants inside like asbestos, lead, and arsenic. Da ash and debris can get spread around by wind, rain, re-entry, Phase 2 debris removal, or anykine event where da ash might come disturbed.

Who wen make da decision fo use one soil stabilizer?

Maui County—wit advice from da Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH), da Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), da U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and da U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) —wen go approve da use of soil stabilizer fo control ash and dust in da areas dat wen get affected by da wildfires.

Da EPA wen start applying soil stabilizer in Kula in late September 2023 and wen start fo apply Soiltac in Lāhainā in mid-October, aftah da Mayor of Maui wen go approve em.

How da ash and debris going human health?

Ash and debris might get harmful contaminants like asbestos, lead, arsenic, and oddah hazardous substances.

Mo bettah wear da recommended personnel protective equipment (PPE) if you going disturb da ash bumbye get mo chance of getting adverse health impacts.

- Da ash and debris get small kine particles dat can easily enter one person's airway and cause short-term symptoms like coughing, nasal irritation, shortness of breath, allergic reactions, and intense asthma kine symptoms.
- Da ash also get one high pH dat can cause eye and skin irritation.
- Da ash and debris can get some harmful kine contaminants inside, like asbestos, lead and arsenic. If you get long-term exposure to dis kine contaminants, you can get adverse health effects like heart disease, strokes, lung cancer and oddah diseases dat can impact yo breathing.

Fo mo information about how ash affect human health, try check: health.hawaii.gov/mauiwildfires/

What kind of benefits get if you use one soil stabilizer?

- Using one soil stabilizer can help reduce the chance that people going breathe in or swallow the ash.
- The thing also helps to prevent the ash from spreading off site.
- Applying one soil stabilizer can reduce the risk of ash run-off reaching the ocean, which can harm the reef and coastal marine environments.

Where they going apply the soil stabilizer?

- EPA teams going apply one soil stabilizer on top of the ash footprint on one parcel by parcel basis (except the areas that get cultural significance). They consider the ash the main source of contamination that they have to control. The USACE going remove the soil stabilizer (Soiltac) together with the debris during the operations for Phase 2.

What is the protocol for applying Soiltac?

Before any application, the EPA teams and cultural monitors going closely inspect the parcel to make sure any wildlife, cat feeding stations, or other sensitive items not going get affected by the application.

Soil stabilizer **not going** be used on historic or cultural areas or items previously known or flagged by cultural monitors.

- If in case cultural monitors find one item of cultural significance, crews going work around the item and the thing going be further investigated for the next steps.
- The kind of cultural and historic structures they **not going** spray include:
 - burial sites,
 - walls,
 - temple bells, historic structures, like Waiola Church, Pioneer Mill Co. Office, and the Lahaina Store, and
 - known collections of artifacts and ancestral ashes at the Baldwin House, Wo Hing, and Shingon Mission.

What does the ash and debris going look like after they treat it with soil stabilizer?

- When Soiltac® dries, the thing going come transparent and non-toxic. They commonly use it for dust and soil control.
- The transparent application going allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to see what gets underneath during the Phase 2 ash and debris removal and not going hinder residents in their ability to see and recover their belongings.

Can people sift through their property after they apply the soil stabilizer?

- Yes, if they like. People searching their property can easily see through the clear coating and broke through it to sift through the ash.
- The EPA requests that people wait 24-hours but, to sift through the debris. Because that's when the soil stabilizer becomes fully effective. The EPA going stay post signs on top of the property to indicate what time they went to put the application.

What if I disturb da soil stabilizer? Somebody going come back fo re-apply em?

We think going need one reapplication aftah because we anticipate going get heavy disturbances. But making sure we apply da soil stabilizer on all da ash footprints, as our first objective. Fo some mo information, please contact our hotline at: **(808) 539-0555**.

How long da soil stabilizer going be good fo?

Da soil stabilizer going be effective fo four to six months if da ting no get disturbed.

How long da soil stabilizer going remain on top properties and when dey going remove em?

Soil stabilizer not suppose to permanently control da ash. Aftah residents visit their properties, da U.S. Army Corps of Engineers going remove da ash, debris, and da soil stabilizer during Phase 2.

Can residents tell dey no like soil stabilizer application?

Residents **no can** opt out of soil stabilizer application. Soil stabilizer going be applied to **all** da properties in Lāhainā fo protect residents' health and da fragile coastal and marine ecosystems.

I can remove Soiltac® from something I wen go back get from my home?

Yes. Run em undah hot water or steam em, den wipe da surface with one soft cloth. Da Soiltac® going remain non-toxic, even while you washing em off.

Fo mo information regarding da above uses please try visit: soilworks.com/reference-library

Fo some mo information about da EPA's support of da Maui wildfires response try look: epa.gov/maui-wildfires

Fo some mo info about what da EPA doing, go contact us at:

Email: R9Wildfiresinfo@epa.gov

Phone: **(808)-539-0555**

Or visit: epa.gov/maui-wildfires

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