

# Soil and Dust

## Exposure to Lead in Detroit



Scan here  
for resources

The M-LEEaD Center's Community Engagement Core (CEC) increases awareness and understanding of environmental health research.

Stakeholder Advocacy Board members include:

- Community Health and Social Services
- The Detroit Health Department
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Eastside Community Network
- Ecology Center
- Green Door Initiative
- MDHHS
- Sierra Club
- We the People of Detroit

**Contact us:**  
Alison Walding  
Project Manager  
Community Engagement Core  
walison@umich.edu

### When are we exposed to lead in dust and soil?

When materials that contain lead break down, the lead ends up in dust and soil. This can happen near industrial projects and building renovations.<sup>5</sup> We are exposed to the lead in the dust and soil when we:



- Track it into our homes on our shoes.
- Inhale the dust particles.
- Eat foods and drinks that were exposed to the lead dust and soil.<sup>3</sup>

### How do I prevent at-home exposure to lead in dust and soil?

- Regularly wipe surfaces, especially window sills with moist cloths or paper towels, or microfiber cloths.<sup>5</sup>
- Keep doors and windows closed if it is dusty outside.
- Use a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) air filter to remove dust from the air in your home. These filters can be in standalone air purifiers, and in vacuums.
- Frequent handwashing, especially before eating and after coming in from outside.
- Hair washing



## Who is most at risk and how are they affected?

There is no safe level of lead in the blood.<sup>1</sup>



- Children under 6 years are more vulnerable to lead exposure because of their tendency to explore the world by putting things in their mouth.<sup>1</sup>
- Women exposed to lead during or before pregnancy can have higher risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, and premature birth.<sup>1</sup>

## How can I protect myself and my community from lead in soil and dust?

Filter the air in your home

- You can make your own, low-cost, air filter with a box fan and a furnace filter (<https://bit.ly/4cdAcJj>)
- You can learn more about what filters are most effective, if you have an air filtration system, or how much they cost (<https://bit.ly/3VkyeA9>)

Know if you have been exposed. Get your blood tested for lead

- Lead Testing is available at the Detroit Health Department every Thursday during normal business hours. Call (313) 876-0133 to make an appointment.

## What community support is available?

Detroit Lead Advocacy Parent Group (DLEAD) (<https://bit.ly/4c7TRKN>)



- A Facebook group to support parents and advocate for a lead-free Detroit
- Provides education and prevention tips for families with a child with elevated blood lead levels (<https://bit.ly/4aO6VUu>)

Lead Out Detroit: Get the Lead Out Detroit Coalition (<https://bit.ly/455peTP>)



- A coalition of Detroit community and environmental organizations supporting lead safety
- Provides lead exposure information and protection recommendations

Please see [http://mleead.umich.edu/Coec\\_Fact\\_Sheets.php](http://mleead.umich.edu/Coec_Fact_Sheets.php) for the citations included in this factsheet.

This research was supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) (#R01ES022616, #R01ES032389) and the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, with additional support provided by the Michigan Center on Lifestage Environmental Exposures and Disease (M-LEEaD) (NIEHS #P30ES017885).