

EPA Resumes Removal of Lead-Contaminated Soil

American Lead Superfund Site
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 2017

EPA field office hours

Beginning on or about May 8, EPA representatives will be available on-site to answer questions about sampling, results, and cleanup at our field office in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. The EPA field office is located at **1802 E. 23rd St.**, in the Persian Temple No. 46 parking lot. EPA representatives are available daily from 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. to answer your questions on cleanup at the American Lead site.

For more information

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the American Lead cleanup, contact these EPA team members:

For technical questions

Shelly Lam

On-Scene Coordinator
317-308-3073
lam.shelly@epa.gov

For general questions

Ruth Muhtsun

Community Involvement
Coordinator
312-886-6595
muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov

EPA mailing address:

EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Mail Code: SI-6J
Chicago, IL 60604

On the Web:

<https://www.epa.gov/in/american-lead-site>

U.S. Environmental Agency will resume cleanup of lead-contaminated soil at the American Lead site in Indianapolis starting in early May. Spring weather conditions such as heavy rain may affect how early EPA will resume work. EPA suspended cleanup at the site during winter because freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall can make access to the ground and excavation difficult for EPA crews. Prior to suspending work, EPA removed almost 9,000 tons of lead-contaminated soil in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood, including at a nearby daycare and playground. The contaminated earth was transported to a nearby landfill where it can be properly managed.

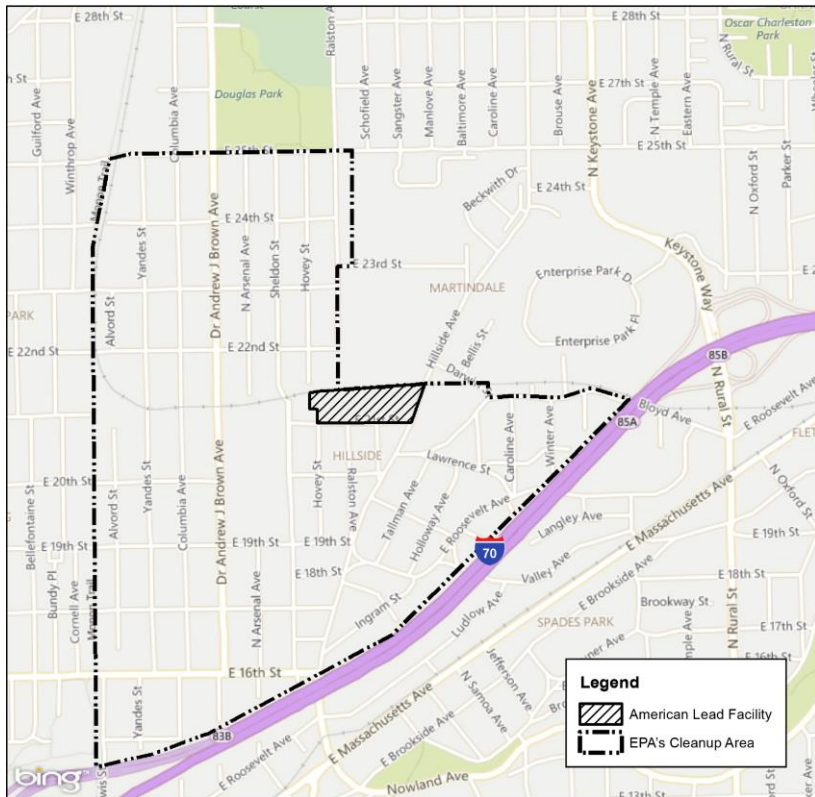
EPA will contact owners and residents at properties where soil lead levels exceed 400 parts lead per million parts soil. Parts per million is abbreviated ppm. At these properties EPA would like to schedule appointments for excavation. EPA will schedule appointments two weeks prior to digging to survey utility lines and take photos of landscaping to ensure properties are returned to their original condition as nearly as possible. EPA will schedule removal work at properties occupied by children under 7 years old and pregnant or nursing women first. EPA will also evaluate other factors like extremely high soil lead levels to prioritize cleanup.

For properties that have under 400 ppm of lead in the soil, no removal work will be done. Lead is a heavy metal found throughout the environment. Natural levels of lead in soil range between 50 and 400 ppm. EPA determined lead concentrations below 400 ppm are acceptable for residential use. However, doing simple things like regular housekeeping and good hygiene can help you and your family lower the risk of lead exposure. You can also talk to your pediatrician, general physician, or local health agency about lead safety and blood testing. Visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead#effects> for more information.

If you live in the EPA's cleanup area, you can still have your property sampled for lead contamination. Contact one of the EPA representatives listed on the left to request an access agreement. Once EPA has received your signed agreement, we will contact you to schedule sampling. EPA needs the property owner's permission to sample or perform a cleanup. If you rent, please contact your property owner or talk to an EPA representative. We can contact them on your behalf.

EPA will take samples from different spots on your property to determine if and which part of your yard needs to be cleaned. Cleanup generally takes 2-3 days from start to finish. This includes removing contaminated soil, replacing it with certified clean soil, and restoring your grass and landscaping. Sampling and cleanup will be done at no cost to owners or residents.

EPA's cleanup area is roughly defined as 25th Street to the north, Ralston Avenue to the northeast, along the railroad to Interstate 70 with I-70 forming the southern border, and the Monon Trail to the west. (See lined area in map below.)



Lead hazards

It is important to know if your property has high lead levels because lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. Although lead is naturally occurring, it is highly toxic. Exposure to lead can result in lower IQ scores in children and has been associated with behavioral and attention problems. Lead can cause kidney, liver, brain, and nerve damage.

For questions regarding lead safety including blood testing, contact

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Department

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American Lead Site