



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Colorado Smelter Superfund Site



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 8 • SEPTEMBER 2020

How Residents Can Minimize Contact With EAF Slag Landscaping Material

As part of our mission to protect human health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been working in your community to clean up lead and arsenic at the Colorado Smelter Superfund site. As part of that work, EPA has determined that a commonly used landscaping material known as EAF slag contains elevated levels of manganese and other metals. As a result, EPA is continuing to evaluate this material.

What is EAF Slag?

The rock-like material is known as electric arc furnace (EAF) slag and is produced during the steel-making process. EAF slag is used locally as an alternative to other materials that are commonly used for landscaping.

Are There Health Concerns?

High levels of manganese in the body may affect the nervous system. Children are more likely to ingest dust or slag particles if they play in the material and allow it to get into their mouths.

EPA recommends you take steps to minimize your family's contact with EAF slag dust and small particles of the slag.

What is EPA Doing to Protect Your Health?

- As part of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment, we are continuing to investigate EAF slag as a landscaping material.
- We are currently working with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and other public health agencies to determine if additional steps are needed.
- EPA will continue to be available to answer questions from the community about EAF slag, and as more information becomes available we will provide it to the community.

Is it Ok to Remove EAF Slag From My Yard?

At this time, EPA does not recommend removing EAF slag from your property. We recommend that you follow the precautionary steps on the back of this page. We are available to answer specific questions you might have and we will be reaching out to you to follow up.

This fact sheet provides recommended steps to minimize contact with a rock-like landscaping material known as electric arc furnace slag, also referred to as EAF slag.



What YOU Can Do To Minimize Contact with EAF Slag



Limit contact with EAF slag and wash hands after contact

Prevent children from accidentally consuming the material by hand-to-mouth activity



Keep dust mats next to exterior doors and leave shoes outside the home

Minimize tracking EAF slag into your home and clean using a damp mop or cloth



Clean and brush pets and wash children's toys before bringing them inside

Minimize contact with EAF slag when gardening, and wash hands and produce before consuming



For general questions, please contact:

EPA

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For questions about EAF slag and your health, please contact:

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