



Carson River Mercury Superfund Site

UNDERSTANDING THE RESIDENTIAL SOIL CLEANUP PROCESS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9 | Carson City, Lyon, and Storey Counties, Nevada | January 2026

Historic mining activities through the 1800s may have contaminated soil in the Carson River Basin near where you live. EPA led residential soil sampling to figure out if soil cleanup in your area is needed. If soil sampling results from your property show elevated levels of lead, EPA will recommend options for soil cleanup (remediation) at no cost to you. Continue reading to learn about the process if soil cleanup is recommended at your property.

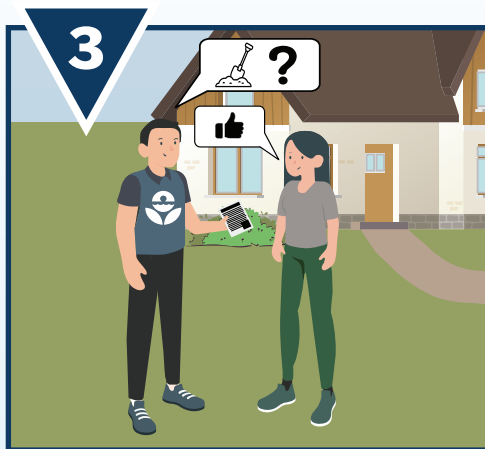
The Soil Cleanup Process



EPA will meet with the property owner to talk about the cleanup process and perform a site survey to make a plan for soil cleanup.



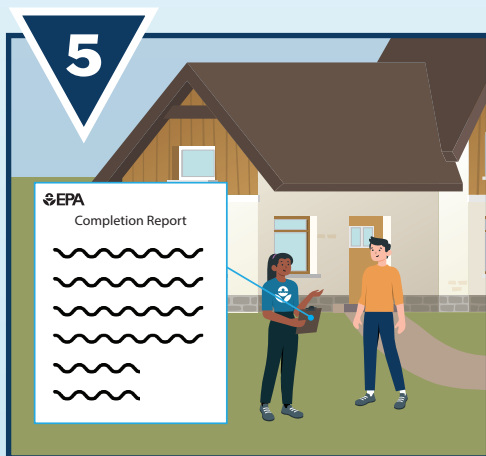
EPA selects a cleanup contractor. This may require a second visit to your property to develop your cleanup plan.



EPA and the cleanup contractor will share the cleanup plan with you (the property owner) for your final sign-off. We will discuss your preferences for yard restoration and be sure you agree with the process before going forward.



The cleanup contractor performs the soil cleanup and restores your yard back to the way you have outlined in the cleanup plan.



EPA performs a final site walk-through with the property owner.



The property owner and the State will sign an environmental covenant for the property. An environmental covenant ensures the cleanup action is documented with the County and the cleanup is disclosed in the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a warranty on cleanup work?

Yes, there is a one-year warranty on cleanup work. If any issues related to the cleanup work are identified during this time, reach out to EPA to discuss.

Can I stay in my home while the work is being done?

Yes, residents are able to stay within their residence during construction work.

How long will cleanup take?

On average, cleanup work should take one week, but it may depend on the difficulty of the work. Restoration work takes a couple more weeks.

Will my yard be restored back to its original condition?

Yes, when we develop the cleanup plan for your sign-off, we will make sure everything you want to be restored is written into the plan. The cleanup contractor will perform the work to restore your yard to its original condition. For example: if you have a flower bed that needs to be removed in order to clean up the soil, the bed and the flowers will be restored to their original state.

What if I want to have future work done to my yard?

If future work is planned in areas that are not cleaned up (soil below 2 feet), the property owner must consult with [Nevada Division of Environmental Protection](https://www.nv.gov/divisions/environmental-protection) first.



Click or scan to visit the Carson River Mercury Site profile page:



epa.gov/superfund/carsonrivermercury



Carson River and Carson City, Nevada.