



from parking lots
to *paradise*

Soil Testing Recommendations

Depave promotes the strategic removal of asphalt. We do not encourage community members to remove asphalt that is covering contaminated soil.

If contamination is currently present in your soil, the contamination is capped which may be reducing the negative environmental or health impacts. If the soil is uncapped, through depaving, unless there is a cleanup plan in place, removing the asphalt may do more harm than good.

Depave strongly recommends that the soil under the pavement be tested before it is removed. As an organization, we are committed to testing soil to ensure that we are not exposing our volunteers to harmful pollutants at the depaving work party and the public as they use this greenspace.

If the post depave plan does not include growing food, Depave recommends that the soil be tested for:

- Lead
- Cadmium
- Hydrocarbons
- Arsenic

If the post depave plan includes growing food, Depave recommends the testing of organochlorine pesticides in addition to the contaminants listed above.

If the site is located near a stream, lake, pond or other body of water, future site design and implementation may recommend additional soil testing. A depave site coordinator will assist project organizers in evaluating whether or not additional tests may be needed.

Please sign below, noting that you understand the potential health and safety implications associated with depaving above contaminated soils.

Site Host

Date

Possible Adverse Health Effects of Exposures to Lead

Lead exposure affects the nervous system and can cause a range of health effects, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. Children six years old and younger are most at risk.

Children

If not detected early, children with high levels of lead in their bodies can suffer from:

- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Behavior and learning problems, such as hyperactivity
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Headaches
- Anemia
- In rare cases of acute lead poisoning from ingestion of lead, seizures, coma and even death.

Pregnant Women

Lead can accumulate in our bodies over time, where it stores in bones along with calcium. During pregnancy, lead is released from bones as maternal calcium is used to help form the bones of the fetus. This is particularly true if a woman does not have enough dietary calcium. Lead can also be easily circulated from the mother's blood stream through the placenta to the fetus. Mothers with high levels of lead in their bodies can expose their developing fetuses, resulting in serious and developmental problems including:

- Miscarriages,
- Premature births or low birth weight,
- Brain damage, decreased mental abilities and learning difficulties, and/or
- Reduced growth in young children.

Adults

Adults can suffer from:

- Hearing and vision impairment,
- Reproductive problems (in both men and women),
- High blood pressure and hypertension,
- Nerve disorders,
- Memory and concentration problems,
- Poor muscle coordination, and
- Muscle and joint pain.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/learn-about-lead.html#effects>