

Soil Lead



Start with a soil test!

Lead can be in your soil from lead paint, gasoline emissions, contaminated fill, or other sources. If lead is above normal background levels in your soil, use these methods for growing plants you want to eat.

Ask for Help

If you have lead in your soil, **contact the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District at (207) 892-4700** for assistance.

How to Garden

- **Grow plants you want to eat in planters.** Buy new soil to put in your planters.
- **Add a barrier to your raised beds.** Use clean, untreated, rot-resistant wood like cedar or pine to add a bottom to your raised bed. Make your plants easier to reach by also adding legs to really separate your plants from the contaminated soil. Buy new soil to put in your raised beds.

Areas to Avoid

Don't plant edible plants or place edible planters and raised beds **next to roads, driveways, and buildings** as these areas are likely to have soil lead and other harmful chemicals.

Limit Contact

Wash your hands after gardening, even if you wore gloves.

Cover any bare soil in the area with mulch or ground cover plants to prevent contaminated dust blowing around and landing on your crops.

Wash

Wash produce and give extra attention to cleaning berries, leafy greens, and other produce with rough surfaces that trap soil.



Peel

If possible, peel fruits and vegetables.



Enjoy

