



How to Avoid Disturbing Soil In Eastwick Residential Yards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been testing in the Eastwick neighborhood to determine the extent of contaminated soil potentially related to the Clearview Landfill, which is part of the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site. Contaminants known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been found at elevated concentrations beneath the surface of several residential yards near the Eastwick Park. The levels of PAHs found do not pose an immediate health threat for residents. However, long-term exposure to PAHs over an extended period (30-70 years) may increase cancer risks.

EPA is currently conducting additional testing in the Eastwick neighborhood to identify other residential properties that are impacted by this contamination. We are also developing a strategy to address this soil contamination. While limited and infrequent contact with the soil will not affect residents' health, it is still important to minimize the chances for exposure to contaminants. EPA's health experts encourage you to follow these general recommendations to avoid disturbing soil and limit any exposure to contaminants in soil:

It is recommended that in residential yards, residents should:

- Avoid games and activities that disturb the soil, like digging, scraping, picking up rocks.
- Avoid any "water-play" activities, such as sprinklers and pools, in areas with exposed soil.
- Consider putting down a tarp around sprinklers and pools to avoid creating mud.
- Avoid walking barefoot in areas of the yard with exposed soil.
- Place blankets or towels down prior to sitting in areas with exposed soil.
- Avoid sports activities that could rip up grass (golf, football, or wearing cleats).
- Prevent dogs or other pets from digging in yards.
- Prevent small children from eating soil through hand-to-mouth play and playing in exposed soil.

It is recommended that after using your yard, residents should:

- Make sure to wash hands or other areas of exposed skin that may have had contact with the soils in your yard with soap and water.
- Take off shoes and clean off pet paws before going inside homes.
- Wash outdoor toys, sporting equipment, etc., before bringing them inside homes.
- Wet mop and wet dust floors, counters and furniture regularly to reduce soil dust inside homes.
- If you use the yard and are in contact with the soil, put very dirty clothes in a bag before bringing them in the house, and wash them promptly in a separate load.

It is recommended that for gardening, residents should:

- Use raised garden beds, pots, etc., filled with clean soil.
- As a precaution, mix additional compost into existing in-ground gardens.
- Wash all produce, peel root crops, and remove outer leaves of leafy vegetables grown in a home garden before eating.
- Clean tools, gloves and shoes before bringing them indoors, or leave them outside.

What are Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)?

PAHs are found naturally in the environment but they can also be man-made. They are a group of chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas and contained in tobacco smoke and charbroiled meat. PAHs stick to soil particles and typically do not move unless the soil is disturbed. A yard that is covered well with grass or other vegetation will reduce or eliminate potential direct contact with contaminated soil. For more info on PAHs, visit: <http://go.usa.gov/x32qz>.

For More Information

Lower Darby Creek Area Website:

[http://www.epa.gov/superfund/
lowerdarby](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowerdarby)

Eastwick Lower Darby Creek Area
Community Advisory Group Website:

<http://www.eldcacag.org/>

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