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# EPA Takes Action to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Soil

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## West Calumet Housing Complex

East Chicago, Indiana

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### For more information

For questions, comments or for more information contact these EPA team members:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking action to protect residents from lead-contaminated soil in the West Calumet Housing Complex in East Chicago, Ind. EPA responders covered patches of bare dirt at the complex and a local playground with triple-shredded, hardwood mulch. The mulch will temporarily provide a barrier until EPA can dig up and remove the contaminated soil. Residents should avoid disturbing the mulch and should not allow children to dig in the mulch.

To find out whether contaminated soil from the yards may have been tracked into homes, EPA will also be testing some homes by collecting dust samples from flat surfaces, floors and carpeting.

These actions are part of a larger effort to clean up the USS Lead Superfund site.



*EPA covered patches of bare soil with mulch to provide a temporary barrier.*

To ensure the health and safety of children, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, or ATSDR, advises parents to prevent children from playing in dirt or mulch, to wash their children's toys regularly and to wash children's hands after they play outside. All residents should remove shoes before walking into their homes. ATSDR

officials also recommend residents in the West Calumet Housing Complex not disturb the mulch or dig or garden in their yards.

EPA and ATSDR staff have been going door-to-door providing information to residents about steps they can take to reduce exposure to lead contamination. EPA is working closely with the city of East Chicago and the East Chicago Public Housing Authority.

West Calumet residents may have their children's blood lead levels tested by calling the East Chicago Health Department at 219-391-8467.

To learn about preventing childhood exposure to lead, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/parents.htm>.

More information about the history of the USS Lead Superfund site is available at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ussmelter-lead-refinery>.



*EPA covered patches of bare dirt in residential yards with mulch and posted warning signs.*



*EPA covered patches of bare dirt in a playground with mulch.*