



# Lead (Pb) Soil Screening Update Effective July 1, 2020

## What You Need to Know

### Purpose

---

This fact sheet provides information regarding the lead soil screening changes that will take effect on **July 1, 2020**.

### Lead Screening Update Effective July 1, 2020

---

- Beginning July 1, 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will utilize a tiered approach for soil screening as listed below:

**Residential Soil Screening Concentration - 200 mg/kg**

**Commercial Soil Screening Concentration - 550 mg/kg**

**Industrial Soil Screening Concentration - 1050 mg/kg**

### Rationale for the Updated Lead Screening Concentrations

---

The scientific and public health community generally agree that adverse effects from lead exposure on the neurological functioning of developing children can occur at levels lower than previously recognized. In 2012 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a reference level of 5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ ) to identify children with blood lead levels that are much higher than most children's levels.

In 2019, Governor Hogan signed Chapter 341, which reduces, from 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$  to the CDC reference level, the blood lead level that triggers certain interventions under the Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing law. The new law recognizes that the CDC reference level is more reflective of current scientific consensus on the health impacts of lead exposure and is therefore a more appropriate level for triggering certain interventions.

While the change directly affects only the Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing law, the same rationale can also apply to other policies that use an elevated blood lead level as an input. This includes the soil lead screening and assessment levels used by the Land Restoration Program (LRP). As a result, LRP reevaluated the soil screening levels to incorporate the lower blood lead reference level.



Maryland  
Department of  
the Environment

## Lead (Pb) Soil Screening Update Effective July 1, 2020

### What You Need to Know

#### Pb Soil Screening Update and Consequences to Remedial Actions

- Updates to the lead soil screening values will have no impact on MDE's approved remedial actions technologies. Remedial actions consist of removal actions, engineering controls including capping, consolidation and capping, in-situ stabilization, and estimating lead relative bioavailability.
- Response action plans and/or remedial plans that were approved prior to July 1, 2020 may proceed as approved.
- MDE reserves the right to review and approve assessments and remedial actions for Land Restoration sites.

#### For More Information

For questions regarding the Lead Soil Screening Updates

please contact: The Land Restoration Program at 410-537-3493