



## WORCESTER ROOTS RECOMMENDATION SHEET

### **0-400 PPM (Parts Per Million) estimated TOTAL lead: BELOW EPA DANGER LEVEL**

- Area tested does not show major risk for play or garden areas.
- At levels of 300 and above, we still advise using *compost amendment* and/or *phytoremediation* (see below).

### **400-2000 PPM estimated TOTAL lead: MODERATE (dangerous)**

- Poses a risk of lead poisoning for walkways, planting or play areas.
- Recommended options:
  - Build Raised Beds
  - Phytoremediation (see below)
  - Cover with:  
woodchips, compost, landscaping fabric, plastic, stepping stones, etc.

### **2000+ PPM estimated TOTAL lead: HIGH (very dangerous)**

- Unsafe to plant or play in.
- Get yourself and those who have come in contact with infected area tested.
- Block off or cover area.
- Recommended options:
  - Coverings (see above).
  - Excavation with proper safety precautions.



---

### **Phytoremediation**

- Using certain types plants to remove lead from soil.
- As plants grow, they absorb lead from soil into their roots, stems, and leaves.
- Simply plant in infected area, and nature will do the rest.
- Dispose of plants when they are fully grown or at the end of the season in yellow city trash bags (goes to incinerator, tested, then to a lined landfill).
- Contact Worcester Roots for detailed phytoremediation procedures.

### **Compost Amendment**

- Add 6-12 inches compost to your garden to dilute and bind up the lead.
- You can get free compost at Worcester's Residential Drop-Off Center on 115 Ballard Street. They are open Monday-Friday from 8:30AM-3:00PM and Saturdays and Sundays 9:00AM-5:00PM, April thru November. Worcester DPW: (508) 929-1300.

### **Excavation**

- Means actually removing the soil.
  - Using professional toxic waste removal companies can be very expensive.
  - Small amounts can be disposed of in yellow bags with a residential exemption.
- Soon, the Toxic Soil Busters may be able to offer a much more affordable excavation service, contact us for more information.