

## Information for real estate transactions



Yard cleanups reduce residents' exposure to lead and other metals.  
Over 7,100 properties have been cleaned up to date.

The ICP tracks completed cleanups, sampling results, and property improvements. Records are commonly requested prior to land sales and loan refinancing. A request can be made online through the PHD ICP website to check the status of your property, including associated Remediation Plot Plan, ICP Work Permits, and sample data.

<https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/icp-request-property-info>

PHD: phone 208-783-0707

### Lead-contaminated soil is part of federal lead disclosure requirements.

- *Guidelines for Property Owners Affected by Mine Waste Within the Bunker Hill Superfund Site* is available at <https://bit.ly/32ZFK9B> (PDF). This document helps property owners understand possible Superfund liability for mining-related waste.
- To learn about obligations to disclose before the purchase and lease of housing built before 1978 and located within the Bunker Hill Superfund Site, download a brochure at <https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Lead-Contaminated-Soil-Residential-Real-Estate-Transaction-Disclosure-Requirements-A.pdf>. The brochure is called *Lead-Contaminated Soil – Residential Real Estate Transaction Disclosure Requirements: Information for Owners, Landlords & Sellers, Buyers, and Renters, Real Estate Agents*. It defines “lead-based paint hazard” and “soil lead hazard.” It also lists the obligations of the seller, landlord, and real estate agent.
- Idaho law requires certain disclosures by seller/owners of residential property and real estate brokers and salespersons regarding the condition of certain real property.

- Idaho Code Sections 55-2501-2518, the “Idaho Property Disclosure Act,” requires seller/owners of residential real property to disclose the known presence of hazardous materials or substances to prospective buyers.
- Idaho Code Sections 54-2086 and 2087 of the “Idaho Real Estate License Law” requires real estate brokers and salespersons to disclose all adverse material facts actually known or which reasonably should have been known about the real estate to buyer/seller customers and clients.

## For More Information

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### Web Resources

**Panhandle Health District**  
<https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/institutional-controls-program>

**Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**  
<https://www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean>

**The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission**  
[www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

**EPA – Coeur d’Alene Basin Cleanup**  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill)

**EPA – Lead Health Information**  
[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

**Cleanup Facebook Page**  
[www.facebook.com/cdabasin](http://www.facebook.com/cdabasin)

**Cleanup Newsletter: Basin Bulletin**  
<https://go.usa.gov/xGKeG>

If you need materials in an alternative format, contact Debra Sherbina • 800-424-4372, ext. 0247.  
☎ TDD or TTY users, please call 800-877-8339 and give the operator Debra’s phone number.



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## Healthy Living in the Silver Valley and Coeur d’Alene Basin



The Silver Valley and Coeur d’Alene Basin are great places to live, work, and play. Knowing the facts about our area will help keep you and your family healthy. Past mining practices left behind large volumes of lead and other heavy metals in Basin soils. Since the 1980s, we have made great progress in reducing risks from the contamination. For example, over 7,100 properties have been cleaned up. Even so, lead and other metals remain in areas that have not been cleaned up. Read on for tips to limit exposure and safely enjoy this beautiful environment.

## Lead in our area

- In our area, lead from past mining practices is often found in:
  - Soil on hillsides and around old mill sites.
  - Soil on the riverbanks and floodplains.
  - Soil tracked into vehicles or into homes from these areas.
  - Soil under clean soil caps, under foundations, and in the dirt floor of crawl spaces and cellars.
  - Dust in homes.
- Lead paint can be present in homes built before 1978. Learn more at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead>
- Some toys and ceramics may contain lead.

## Lead Poses a Risk

Lead is most dangerous to young children, pregnant women, and unborn children. It can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and slower growth. Lead can pose a risk to adults, too, causing memory loss, irritability, high blood pressure, and muscle or joint pain. Lead is taken into the body by swallowing lead-contaminated dirt or water, or by inhaling air that is contaminated by lead dust.

- Even small amounts of lead can harm a child -- even less than a quarter teaspoon of contaminated dust or soil.
- Young children crawling and putting hands in their mouths have the most risk.
- There is no safe level of lead exposure.



## Keep Clean, Eat Clean, Play Clean! Reduce lead exposure:

- Know where to play outdoors safely. If you don't know, listed contacts can help. Pay attention to local public health signs.
- Keep hands clean, especially after playing outside and before eating to keep dirt away from mouths.
  - ✓ Teach your children how to wash hands properly.
  - ✓ Use soap and water, but not creek or river water. Bring water with you for cleaning.
  - ✓ Wash for at least 20 seconds to remove lead particles.
  - ✓ Hand sanitizer kills germs but will not remove lead.
- Have a table or clean barrier (such as a towel or blanket) between your food and the ground.



## Play Safe Protect Your Health

High levels of lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals from past mining activities are found in the soil, sediments, and water at this location.

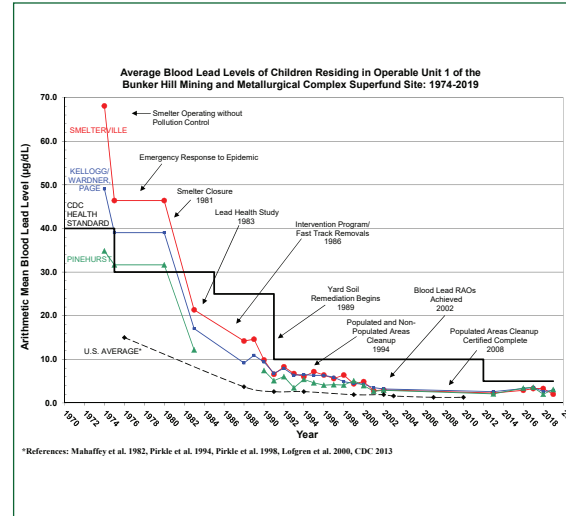
- Pack in your water.** Don't use river water for drinking, cooking, or washing, even if it is filtered.
- Wash before you eat.** Wash your hands with clean water or wipes before eating or drinking.
- Eat on a clean surface.** Use a table or blanket, not bare ground.
- Cover your face.** When off-roading, cover your nose and mouth with a bandana or mask to avoid breathing in dust.
- Clean before you leave.** Remove dirt from clothes, toys, pets, cars, and equipment. Dirt tracked home may result in future lead exposure.
- Follow fish advisories.** Follow fish consumption advisories, especially for pregnant women and children.



- When riding ATVs, motorcycles, and bikes off-road, wear protective gear including a mask or other face covering.
- Dust off or wash off what you can to minimize dirt that you bring home. Until they are clean, store dusty recreational clothes, toys, and equipment away from clean areas.
- Leave shoes outside the camper or tent.
- Wash pets that have played in the dirt or swum in the river before letting them into your home.

## The Cleanup

Since the cleanup began, the area has become a healthier place to live, work, and play. Yards and public spaces are getting cleaned up. Hillside are lush and green again. The Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes draws visitors season after season. Many roads in the valley are now repaired to protect people's health from underlying contamination. Each year, the cleanup employs scores of local people. The best cleanup news of all is that children's blood lead levels have dropped sharply (see chart).



The cleanup is aimed at reducing risk and removing contamination. It will take a long time. Here is some priority work going on now:

- Continuing property cleanups
- Starting contaminated groundwater collection and treatment
- Addressing recreational and wildlife areas
- Managing the local Institutional Controls Program (see next panel)
- Finishing up with paving public roads which serve as barriers to contamination
- Cleaning up mine waste at non-operating mine and mill sites
- Providing and operating repositories and waste consolidation areas to safely secure waste soils
- Continuing public outreach and education



## What You Can Do...

### Have your child's blood lead tested

The only way to know your child's blood lead level is to test it. Screening is available free of cost year-round. Plus, each summer, Panhandle Health District (PHD) offers free testing for young children. PHD also provides free, private consultations on how to reduce exposure to contamination. PHD: 208-783-0707



### Talk to your health care provider

Anyone identified with a high blood lead level should consult with their primary care provider. Also, pregnant women are encouraged to talk to their health care provider early about ways to avoid the risk of lead exposure.

### Learn whether your yard has been remediated

Find out if your yard has been cleaned up. PHD: 208-783-0707

### Follow the Institutional Controls Program (ICP)

Community members help keep contamination in check by following the ICP. The ICP is a locally enforced set of regulations to control re-contamination. It is operated by PHD. Permits are needed for many types of indoor and outdoor construction activities. Permits and consultations are free. You must comply with the ICP before digging on your property or starting some interior projects. PHD: 208-783-0707

### Get more info and borrow a vacuum

The PHD office at 35 Wildcat Way in Kellogg offers helpful information. Topics include local lead exposures, how to reduce risks, how lead affects the body, and information about buying and selling property in the area. PHD also loans special vacuum cleaners to residents. Frequent vacuuming can reduce in-home exposure. PHD: 208-783-0707

### Attend Citizens' Coordinating Council meetings

This citizen's forum is the main avenue for public input into Basin Commission activities. <http://www.basincommission.com/cc/>

### Stay Informed

Join our mailing list. Contact [sherbina.debra@epa.gov](mailto:sherbina.debra@epa.gov) 206-553-0247 or 800-424-4372, ext. 0247

Follow on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cdabasin](http://www.facebook.com/cdabasin)

### Fish consumption advisories are in effect



Follow advisories when consuming fish from the Coeur d'Alene River or the Chain Lakes.

Learn more at <http://fishadvisory.dhw.idaho.gov>