

Attention Lapeer Gardeners

Free Soil Lead Screening on August 18, 2025

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is holding a SoilSHOP at the following place and time:

Where: Lapeer District Library Marguerite deAngeli Branch, 921 W. Nepessing St. Lapeer, MI 48446

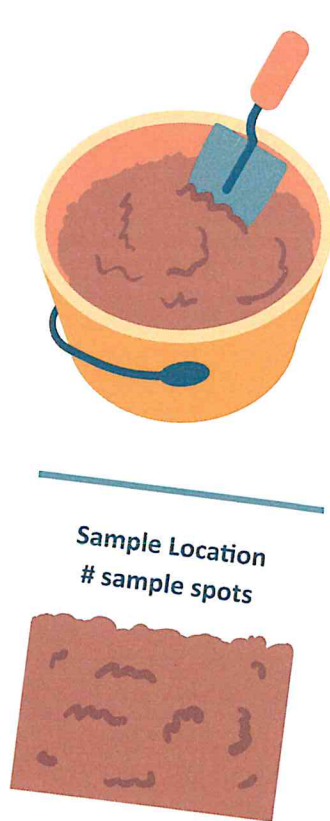
When: August 18, 2025 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm

What is a SoilSHOP?

A SoilSHOP is an event where you can bring soil from your garden or play area in your yard to be screened for lead at no cost. Results will be available soon after the soil is screened. MDHHS staff will be available to explain ways you can limit your exposure to lead in soil.

How do I collect a soil sample for the SoilSHOP?

Read through these instructions before beginning. Consider wearing garden gloves because they can help to limit exposure to bacteria and contaminants that might be in the soil. Wash soil off your hands when you finish each of the steps.



1

Identify areas for soil collection. Identify the area or areas where you want to collect samples. How you collect soil in a food garden will be different than in a play area. Plan to keep the samples from different areas separate.

Also, if there is an area close to your house where you want to collect samples, keep those samples separate from areas further from the house.

2

Collect soil. Collect several small samples from five to 10 random spots in each area. For areas where you garden, collect soil from the surface down to about 6 inches deep. For play areas, collect soil from the surface down to about 2 inches deep.

For each area, mix the samples together in a bucket or bowl so you have **at least two to three cups of soil for that area**. Do not mix samples from different areas together. If you are collecting soil from three separate areas, you will need to have three separate containers in which you mix the samples. Keep track of the areas in your yard where you collected the soil because later you will label these samples.

3

Prepare and dry soil. Remove rocks, roots and plants, including grass and leaves. Let the soil dry naturally by air. Do not use a flame, oven, or hair dryer to dry the soil.

4

Bag and label samples. Transfer two to three cups of the dry mixed soil into a clean quart-sized zip bag. Label with the location of the sample and total number of spots where soil was collected.

5

Bring soil to the SoilSHOP for your free and quick soil lead screening.

This video also explains how to take a soil sample: bit.ly/Soil-Sample.

If you have questions about collecting a sample for the SoilSHOP, please call 800-648-6942.

Soil Lead Screenings

Tools



garden gloves



trowel



bucket or bowl



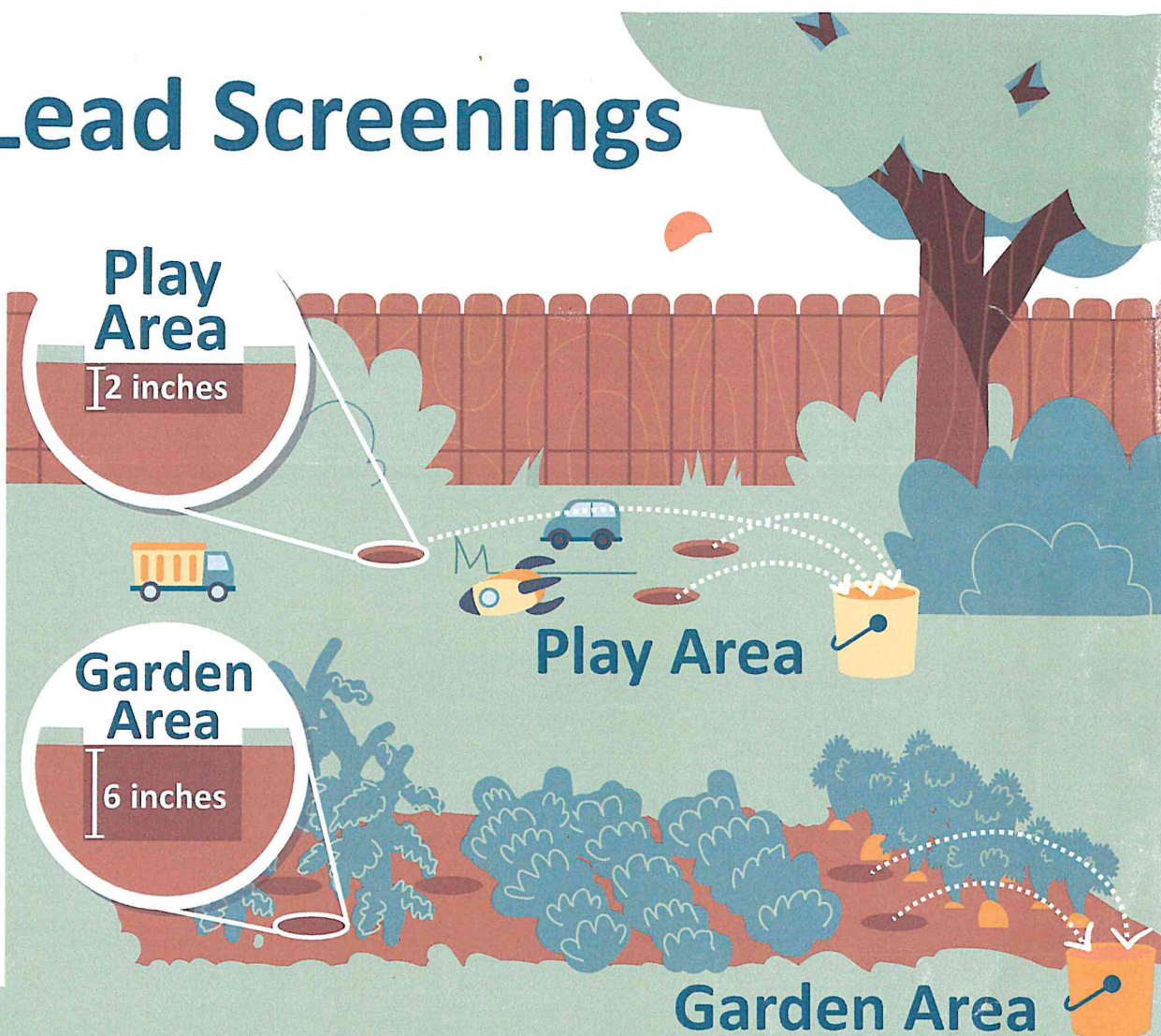
measuring cup



quart zip bag



permanent marker



Stir samples together and dry.



You can spread out each sample in a box to speed up the drying process.



Transfer two to three cups to a quart-sized zip bag.



Label bag with location and number of spots sampled.



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