

# DIRT ALERT

## Reduce Your Risk from Contaminated Soil

**S**oil in north Everett was polluted with arsenic and lead from the Asarco smelter which operated in the early 1900s. The levels of arsenic and lead in the parks are not an immediate health threat. However, they can be toxic at low levels, primarily due to swallowing even small amounts of soil over several years. Arsenic and lead are not well absorbed through the skin, but for most young children and some older kids and adults, dirt on hands and toys can get into the mouth.



**Take these five steps to reduce your risk from contaminated soil.**

- 1. Wash hands and toys with soap and water after playing in the dirt**
- 2. Wash hands before eating or putting anything in your mouth**
- 3. Take off your shoes at the door when you get home**
- 4. Wipe off your pet's dirty paws and bathe pets often**
- 5. Wash blackberries or other fruit from this area before eating it**



**For more information contact:  
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