

## WHAT IS LEAD?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that can be hazardous to human health, especially for children under 6 years of age



## WHY IS LEAD A CONCERN?

- 1 in 20 children in Detroit is lead poisoned
- Children with blood lead levels higher than 10 µg/dL\* have lead poisoning
- Lead poisoning can cause learning and speech problems, hyperactivity and nerve damage that cannot easily be reversed and are likely to last a lifetime
- The effects of lead poisoning cannot always be seen
- A healthy diet high in vitamin C & D, calcium, zinc and iron can help reduce lead poisoning
- Children become lead poisoned by eating dust, dirt, and paint that contain lead
- All children under 6 should be tested yearly

## WHY IS THERE LEAD IN THE SOIL?

- Lead is found naturally in the soil in low amounts
- Most houses built before 1978 have leaded paint inside and outside
- Soil (mainly in large cities) may have high lead levels because of heavy industry and exhaust from leaded gas (banned in 1986)

\* µg/dL = microgram lead per deciliter of blood

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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LEAD SAFE GARDENING

