



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eaton Fire Soil Testing Program

1. What is the Eaton Fire Soil Testing Program?

This program provides free soil testing for lead. Testing is done by a certified laboratory and is only for lead. Soil samples from properties located within the burn scar, downwind of, and just outside, the Eaton Fire area can be submitted for testing. This is to help them find out if their residential soil may be contaminated with lead. In April 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved up to \$3 million from the Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program to fund soil testing in residential areas downwind of the Eaton Fire.

2. What do we know about lead levels after the Eaton Fire?

Soil testing after the Eaton Fire found that some properties downwind and just outside the burn area may have elevated soil lead levels. Public Health post-fire assessments found unusually high levels of lead in the soil in this area. This is likely due to the older homes with lead-based paint that burned during the fire, combined with strong winds that spread the resulting smoke and ash. Similar findings have been reported by CalTech, the Los Angeles Times, and other independent researchers.

3. Why is lead in soil a concern?

Lead is a toxic metal that can pose serious health risks, particularly to young children and pregnant individuals, when it builds up in the body over time. After a wildfire, fire ash and smoke transported by strong winds may have deposited lead from burned buildings into nearby yards.

4. Is lead the only concern?

So far, there have not been widespread high levels of other fire-related contaminants found in soil at or near the burn sites. However, lead is a serious health risk, especially to young children and pregnant individuals, when levels exceed state screening guidelines.

5. Who can get free soil testing?

Soil samples from properties located within the burn scar, downwind of, and just outside, the Eaton Fire area can be submitted for testing.

[Click here](#) to view the target area map.

6. When does the program end?

The program is scheduled to run through December 2025. The end date may be extended based on community demand for soil testing.





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7. How do residents get their soil tested and what does the process involve?

People will collect soil from 4 different spots in their yard using a garden trowel (or spoon) and put them together into one sample, called a composite soil sample. This composite soil sample will be tested for lead. Detailed step-by-step instructions and materials are provided [HERE](#).

Samples should be dropped off at:

Altadena One-Stop Permit Center – Public Health Table
464 W. Woodbury Road, Suite 210, Altadena, CA 91001

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Samples will be analyzed by certified laboratories, and people will receive the results by email within 7 to 10 business days, along with a link to follow-up guidance.

8. What support is available if lead is found in my soil?

Public Health has materials that explain soil sampling results, guidance for possible next steps, and protective measures that may be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in soil.

9. Where can I get more information?

Visit our project page: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/eaton-soil-testing/>

