Protect Your Family's Health



The Exide battery recycling plant in Vernon released harmful chemicals into nearby communities. The California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is cleaning the affected areas. Los Angeles County is providing information, blood lead testing, and other resources to community members.

Key Chemicals and Health Risks

Key chemicals that were released during the operations of the Exide plant included lead, arsenic, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene. Arsenic, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene are no longer in the environment, but people who were exposed to them in the past could still face long-term health risks.

- **Lead:** Can harm the brain, kidneys, liver, and other organs. Children less than 6 years old and pregnant women are at higher risk.
- **Arsenic:** Repeated exposure is associated with cancers of the skin, lung, digestive tract, liver, and kidney.
- **Benzene**: May increase the risk of developing leukemia and other blood disorders.
- **1,3-Butadiene:** Studies have shown that people who work around this chemical have an increased risk of developing leukemia.

What can you do?

- **Inform your doctor** that you live in the Exide contaminated area and that you may have been exposed to the chemicals listed above.These lab tests are recommended: CBC, metabolic count, urine analysis, and a blood lead level.
- **Make an appointment** for a blood lead level test.

Reduce Lead Exposure

- **Wash your hands and toys often.** Lower hand-to-mouth transfer of lead and dirt after playing outside and with their toys.
- **Don't let children play on or eat dirt.** Playing on grass or sand helps lower exposure to lead.
- **Take off your shoes or wipe them on a doormat before entering your home.** The dirt from your shoes may have lead.
- **Keep home clean and dust-free.** Reduce lead and dirt particles from your home.
- **Mop floors, wipe down windowsills.** Use a clean wet cloth, wash all surfaces, and vacuum often.
- **Keep your pets' paws clean.** They may be bringing lead into your home from the dirt outside.
- **Wash clothes and shoes separately.** If you have been playing in the dirt outside or if you work around lead, keep a separate bag for dirty work clothes and keep work shoes outside.
- **Grow your fruits/vegetables in containers.** If you garden, buy your soil instead of using the dirt in your yard.



DTSC Soil Lead Testing
Call 1-844-225-3887

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Call 1-800-854-7771

Free or Low-Cost Healthcare
Call 211or visit the website:
publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/exide



Free Blood Lead Testing
Call 1-800-524-5323

If you have any questions regarding our blood lead testing outreaches, please email us at:
EXIDEOutreach@ph.lacounty.gov

Revised 10/2026