

Soil Testing & Remediation: What's Excluded?

This handout lists the areas that are excluded from either soil testing or soil remediation in the THEP Soil Management Program (SMP). Possible exposure to metals in soil is generally low as these areas are hard to reach or have permanent cover. In some cases work in these areas could create hazards. The SMP is delivered by the THEP Home & Garden team (H&G).

PERMANENT STRUCTURES

H&G cannot soil test or remediate under permanent structures. This includes:

- ✗ Buildings with permanent foundations
- ✗ Decks with limited access underneath (less than three feet clearance)
- ✗ Pools/hot tubs, or structures that cannot be moved
- ✗ Temporary structures that the homeowner is not willing to move, such as animal shelters, fences, sheds, etc



CONCRETE OR OTHER PERMANENT COVER

H&G cannot soil test or remediate under permanent cover in good condition. This includes:

- ✗ Driveways
- ✗ Sidewalks
- ✗ Patios
- ✗ Parking structures
- ✗ Pavers pending H&G condition assessment



TERRACES OR RETAINING WALLS

H&G cannot soil test or remediate areas under or adjacent to permanent landscape structures. This includes:

- ✗ Retaining walls
- ✗ Rock walls
- ✗ Rock gardens



LARGE TREES, BUSHES OR SHRUBS

H&G cannot remediate soil within the dripline or root ball of large trees, bushes or shrubs. This includes:

- ✗ Forested areas
- ✗ Bushes or shrubs that the Homeowner would like to keep
- ✗ Roots near house foundations, retaining walls, gas lines, etc.
- ✗ If Homeowner would like to remove trees they are responsible for removal and disposal prior to remediation



STEEP SLOPES

H&G cannot remediate soil above, on, or below steep slopes that don't meet building code standards for steep slopes. This includes:

- ✗ Slopes greater than 3 metres in height or 30 degrees in slope



OTHER LESS COMMON EXCLUSION AREAS

H&G cannot soil test or remediate in, around, or under the following:

- ✗ Aquatic features (e.g. pond)
- ✗ Septic systems
- ✗ Home heating oil tanks
- ✗ Underground utilities (other than sprinkler systems)

