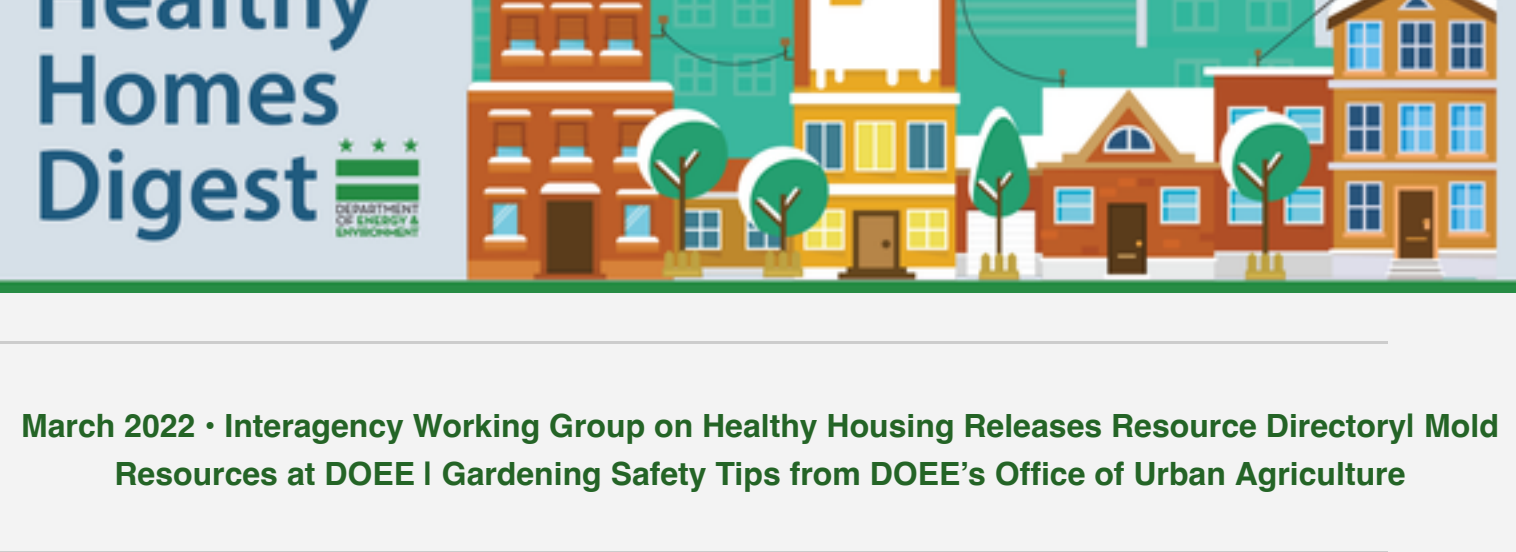


DC Healthy Homes Digest: Healthy Housing Resource Directory | Mold Resources at DOEE | Gardening Safety Tips

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March 2022 - Interagency Working Group on Healthy Housing Releases Resource Directory | Mold Resources at DOEE | Gardening Safety Tips from DOEE's Office of Urban Agriculture

WELCOME TO THE DC HEALTHY HOMES DIGEST!

This publication connects you to organizations and community members dedicated to creating and maintaining safe, healthy, and energy-efficient housing in the District of Columbia.

Subscribe to the DC Healthy Homes Digest and forward it to your colleagues!

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Events

SAVE THE DATE! Asthma and Allergy Day Capitol Hill

May 3-4, 2022

The Asthma and Allergy Network invites partners from across the country to join in their annual advocacy event, Asthma and Allergy Day Capitol Hill. This year's event is planned to be both in-person and virtual.

Rental Counseling and Eviction Prevention - STAY DC

Various Dates, Next Event Tuesday, April 12 2022, 5:30 - 6:30pm EST

The Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (MHCDO) has empowered low-to-moderate income households with affordable housing opportunities and transformed thousands of lives.

CARECEN Home Maintenance Workshop

Sunday, March 19, 2022, 10:00am - 12:00pm EST

The Central American Resource Center invites you to their virtual Home Maintenance Workshop in English and Spanish featuring tips to prevent exposure to lead in the home as well as a representative from the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) discussing the services provided by the agency.

Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) Advisory Board Meetings

Repeats on the third Thursday of every month

Next meeting: April 21, 2022, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm

The HPTF is a permanent fund organized and administered to facilitate the creation of affordable housing in the District. The HPTF Advisory Board advises the Mayor on the development, financing, and operation of the HPTF and other affordable housing matters for low to moderate-income residents.

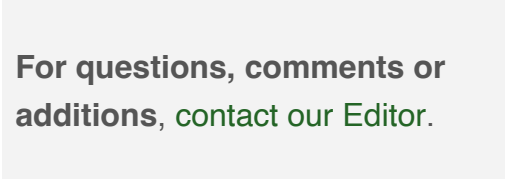
Connect with the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative

The DC Healthy Housing Collaborative is a multisector coalition seeking to address substandard housing conditions that contribute to significant health issues affecting District residents. Sign up to stay connected to the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative and complete the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative Membership Survey.

DC ASTHMA Coalition

Join the DC Asthma Coalition's Fight Against Asthma

The DC Asthma Coalition is a community partnership of local citizens, health care providers and nonprofit organizations united to fight asthma in the District of Columbia. Complete a DC Asthma Coalition Membership Application to join or contact the DC Asthma Coalition to learn more.



Stay up to date on all things Healthy Housing in the District. Subscribe and forward to your colleagues!

For questions, comments or additions, contact our Editor.

Want to get more involved? Contact the Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division, (202) 535-2600

Media Inquiries: Contact the DOEE Public Information Officer

DISCLAIMER: Unless otherwise stated, any events, presentations and/or webinars mentioned in this email are not affiliated with the District of Columbia Government. Content in this notice is for information and sharing purposes. Terms and Conditions of Use

Interagency Working Group On Healthy Housing Releases Resource Directory For District Residents

DISTRICT AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE HEALTHIER LIVING ENVIRONMENTS FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS - Established by the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), the Interagency Working Group on Healthy Housing is made up of more than 15 government agencies with different missions, responsibilities, resources, and expertise but who all provide services to address poor housing conditions that impact the health and wellness of DC residents.



Deteriorated housing can put physical and mental health at risk. Asthma, lead poisoning, injuries, and viral infections are just some of the problems that are caused and/or exacerbated by poor housing conditions.

The Interagency Working Group on Healthy Housing created the Healthy Housing Directory to share simple ways for everyone to maintain a healthier home and also lists resources available to residents across agencies.

Mold Resources At DOEE

DOEE HELPS DISTRICT RESIDENTS AND LANDLORDS UNDERSTAND HOW TO PREVENT MOLD AND MOISTURE IN THEIR HOMES - Mold is a fungus that forms in the natural environment. Mold can grow wherever there is a water and food source, both indoors and outdoors.

DOEE's Mold Program helps District residents and property owners understand and remain compliant with the Air Quality Amendment Act of 2014 aka the DC Mold Act (the Act). The Act states that visible mold contamination greater than 10 square feet requires a DOEE licensed mold professional to assess and/or remediate.



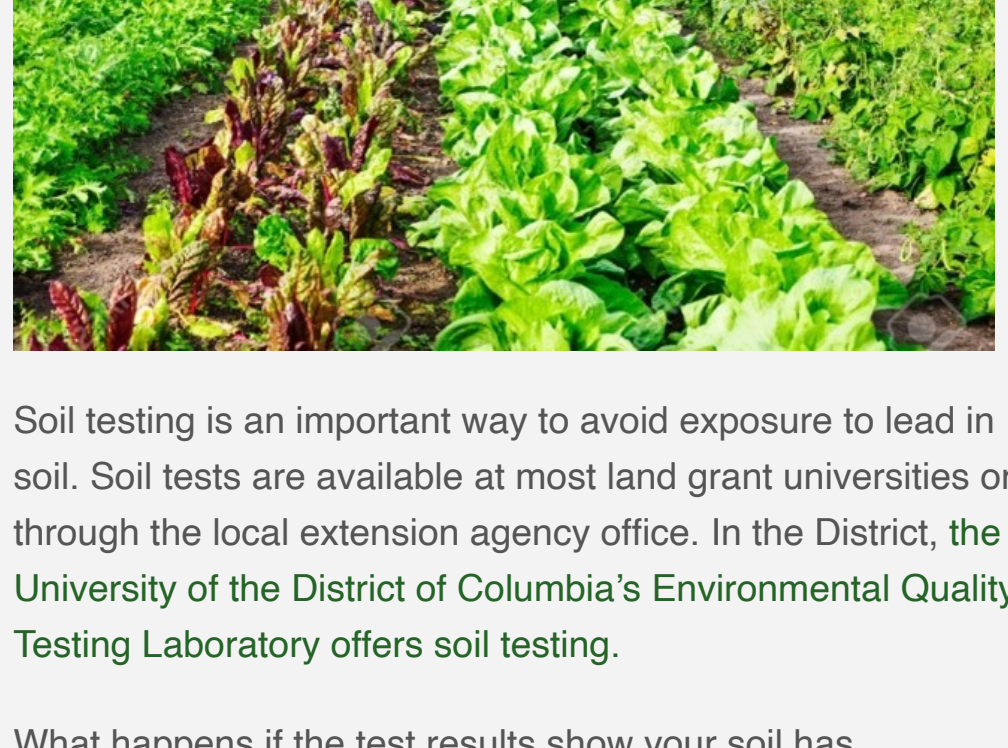
The Act also specifies that Tenants must first notify the landlord or property owner in writing about mold issues in the home. The property owner must respond to the tenant within 7 days and clean and remove moldy conditions within 30 days.

- To prevent mold from growing, indoor spaces should be kept dry and clean. To achieve this, you can:
- Use a dehumidifier in particularly humid areas such as basements;
- Increase indoor air circulation and ventilation;
- Fix plumbing leaks as soon as possible;
- Clean and repair roof gutters regularly;
- Keep air conditioning drip pans clean and drain lines unobstructed and flowing properly;
- Protect vulnerable areas from flooding;
- Keep areas prone to humidity, like kitchens and bathrooms, well ventilated with fans and open windows;
- Ensure appliances that produce moisture, such as clothing dryers and stoves, vent water vapor to the outside;
- Insulate cold water pipes and other areas that may collect condensation.

For more information about mold, residents can also reference the EPA's A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home.

What's Buzzing at DOEE?

GARDENING SAFETY TIPS FROM DOEE'S OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE - Spring time is around the corner, and many District residents are eagerly planning their backyard gardens. Included in those plans should be ways to stay safe from harmful contaminants that can sometimes be found in soil.



Soil testing is an important way to avoid exposure to lead in soil. Soil tests are available at most land grant universities or through the local extension agency office.

What happens if the test results show your soil has contaminants? Soil tests often come with recommendations for amending your soil to limit the bioavailability of contaminants.

Visit the DOEE Office of Urban Agriculture's webpage to learn about its work to increase food production in the District, or email Kate Lee at Kate.Lee@dc.gov.

Resources You Can Use

ASTHMA FRIENDLY HOME CHECKLIST - Many common triggers of asthma and allergy symptoms originate in the home. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America has developed an Asthma-Friendly Home Checklist specifically to help people identify and reduce triggers in their home environment.

Table with 4 columns: Is this your trigger?, What is this trigger?, Where is it found?, and Recommended ways to fix it. Rows include: Heavy outdoor allergy symptoms, Heavy indoor allergy symptoms, Heavy outdoor allergy symptoms, and Heavy indoor allergy symptoms.

If there are questions about any of the triggers or ways to manage or fix them, residents should speak directly with their health care provider and/or asthma educator.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America also offers a certification program for products that are deemed to contribute to a healthier home.

More information about asthma triggers can also be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Healthy Housing Happenings

GEARING UP FOR ASTHMA AND ALLERGY AWARENESS MONTH - Each year, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) declares May to be Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month.

Save the Date for the Annual Asthma & Allergy Network's Asthma & Allergy Day Capitol Hill (AADCH) on May 3-4, 2022. The annual event offers discussions and webinars as well as opportunities to engage with members of Congress and advocate for people living with asthma and/or allergies.

Stay tuned for more information about local events in recognition of Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month hosted by DOEE in the next digest issue.

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