

The Listed Land Use Register: what it means for your health

Your property is on the Listed Land Use Register if it has been a site where certain industrial activities took place or chemicals were used, stored or disposed of in the past.

This means it is possible that chemicals or hazardous substances are still present in your soil. Typical sites include former orchards and market gardens, landfills, timber treatment and other industrial sites identified on the Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL).



Being on the Register does not mean your property is contaminated. It may be that the amount of chemicals or substances used was insignificant or have been removed, or that only a small part of your section was used.

How much information you have about previous use, and how you use your land now are important considerations in helping you decide what action, if any, you need to take next. You may decide to do nothing, or you could engage a consultant to do a site investigation.

Looking after your health

Here are some common sense precautions everyone should take which will minimise any potential health risks, whether or not your property is listed on the Register.

Practise good personal hygiene

- Wash hands and exposed skin after coming into contact with soil
- Wash children's hands and faces before eating and before bed time
- Adults should wash their hands before preparing food, smoking, eating, drinking or feeding children.

Keep soil outside, not in your house

- Remove shoes before entering your house
- Use door mats
- Regularly mop floors and wet-wipe surfaces
- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter and clean carpets, rugs and upholstered furniture regularly
- Wash boots and tools outside
- Frequently wash toys and dummies
- Keep windows closed on windy days to stop dust being blown inside.

Make sure children's play areas are safe places

- Maintain good grass cover in areas where children play
- Do not let children play on bare soil
- Bare soil should be covered with bark or mulch
- Make sure children wash their hands after playing outside and before eating or drinking
- Regularly wash toys used outside
- Build a sandpit with a lined base and fill with clean sand. Put netting or a cover on at night to keep cats and other animals out.

Tips for ensuring safe and healthy gardening

- Wear gloves as a barrier between your hands and the soil
- Wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly before eating
- Wash hands and exposed skin after coming into contact with soil
- Wash boots and tools outside
- Do not disturb soil on windy days.

[Get more information on safe and healthy gardening.](#)

Keep your pets safe too, as well as yourself

- Don't let dogs dig in the garden
- Don't let muddy pets into the house
- Wash family pets often if they come into the house
- Wash hands after handling pets
- Keep chickens only if you are certain your land is not contaminated.

Consider a site investigation if your land is on the Register and you use your garden in ways other than those above (e.g. you eat eggs from your free range chickens).

[Visit the Environment Canterbury website for more information on site investigations.](#)

Remember: The risk to your health is low

For someone carrying out normal, day-to-day activities on a property it is unlikely that the level of contamination on their property will be high enough to result in any health issues.

If a site investigation is undertaken which shows that your land is contaminated, follow the recommendations of your consultant regarding reducing any risk to your health.

If you suffer from any physical health symptoms it is always important that you see your GP promptly.

Talk to your GP about how you use your land if you have concerns and you live on a property listed on the Register. Your GP will consider whether your symptoms may be related to environmental factors and whether you need any medical follow up.