

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Tar Creek Superfund Site Residential Yard Cleanup

FREE Service for all Ottawa County Residents

Introduction

Since 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has worked to clean up residential properties, parks, and other publicly accessible areas impacted by mining waste associated with the Tar Creek Superfund Site. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will continue those efforts to make the local community cleaner and safer. DEQ strongly encourages you to have your property sampled for lead. Please contact DEQ's toll free Hotline at **1-800-522-0206** to sign up today.

Site History and Goals

The Tar Creek Superfund Site is part of the Tri-State Mining District, which includes northeastern Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, and southwestern Missouri, where lead and zinc were mined from about 1900 to the 1970s. After the mining stopped, huge volumes of waste, including chat, were left on the ground. Due to the widespread practice of using chat as general fill material, lead contamination is common throughout Ottawa County and has contributed to human health and environmental concerns in the area. Children age six or younger are the most sensitive to lead and other heavy metals. Exposure to lead can cause adverse health effects and may impair a child's ability to learn. Our goal is to reduce the ingestion of lead-contaminated soil by people, especially children. This is accomplished by removing lead-contaminated soil and chat from your property. Your participation in this cleanup is strongly encouraged but entirely voluntary.

How to Participate in DEQ's Residential Yard Cleanup Program

- Sign up for the Yard Cleanup program by scanning the QR Code on this sheet, calling the DEQ Hotline at **1-800-522-0206**, or emailing your information to TarCreek@deq.ok.gov. A DEQ Project Manager will reach out to discuss your property before any work begins.
- DEQ will then sample your property for lead or determine if your property has been previously sampled or cleaned.
- If contamination is not present, DEQ will provide a letter stating that your property is clean.
- If contamination is present, DEQ will cleanup of your property **FREE OF COST TO YOU**.

If you would like additional information about DEQ's Residential Property Cleanup Program or the Tar Creek Superfund Site, contact:

Katrina Pollard
Tar Creek Project Manager
Oklahoma DEQ (405) 702-5112

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Additional Tar Creek information can also be found by visiting the DEQ Tar Creek website at <https://tinyurl.com/2s8v4dje>

All press inquiries for the Tar Creek Superfund Site should be directed to **Skylar McElhaney** (405) 702-7167



Program Sign-Up



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