



THEHEALTHYROOTSPROJECT

# AT THE ROOT OF A SAFE & HEALTHY HOME

A Major Consideration For Rural And Suburban  
Home Owners, New Home Buyers And New Home Builders



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## Conversation Starter

*Your home may be your castle or your child's play land. It may be your pet's heaven on earth. A home can be many different things for different people, but all home owners want to ensure a safe environment for themselves and for their loved ones.*

As a society, we are buying more natural products and seeking the safest routes for not only building our homes, but also filling them. We buy organic produce, soy milk, all natural cleaning agents, lead-free paints, bamboo-upholstered sofas, organic cotton, filtered water. The list goes on. We scrutinize ingredient lists on skincare products, knowing that what touches our skin can affect our health for years to come. We test our homes for asbestos, radon, and mold. Some of us even move our families away from urban, congested areas, where air pollution and other environmental risks thrive.

### **More and more, we try to live and breathe "green."**

We try. We really do. But we may be missing something. We may be missing a serious threat at the roots of our homes, literally.

Do you  
know what is  
in your soil?

Do you know what your house sits on, your children play in, your dogs roll in, your garden vegetables grow in? Have you ever really thought about it?



## There is an environmental issue that has been flying under the radar of environmental regulatory agencies for years.

Many programs address polluted land for commercial use, but residential lots have been seemingly overlooked.

**Think about it.** We build residential developments, schools, and playgrounds on lands formerly used for agricultural purposes. It is likely pesticides were used on these very same lands. As a result, pesticide residue (for example, arsenic and lead) may still be present in our soil today.

Our children's potential direct exposure to these residue-laden soils should be of high concern. Incidental ingestion and skin contact may lead to health risks for anyone, but the risk is greater for children as their bodies are smaller and still developing. Also, children are most likely to spend a significant amount of their leisure time in backyards, neighborhood playgrounds, and ball fields. The good news is not everyone's land contains pesticide



residue. A small population of developers and lenders have been pro-active in this arena. Some have assessed levels of pesticide residue prior to residential land development, a responsible and cost effective step, but the majority is still failing to see the value of such pro-active measures.

*So what can you do as a home owner, buyer, or builder?*

**Ask questions.** If you are a home owner in an area that could be affected, call your developer, real estate agent, and lender. Ask if your land has been tested for pesticide residue. Probe for answers. If you are in the process of buying or building a home, address this issue as soon as possible. The earlier your land is tested (and pesticide issues addressed, if necessary) the quicker you will have healthier roots for your home and family.



This conversation has been prompted by **The Mahfood Group LLC (TMG)**, an environmental consulting firm focused on the future. TMG urges you to keep this conversation going. Visit [www.healthyrootsproject.com](http://www.healthyrootsproject.com) to learn more or contact TMG at 724.260.5219 to find out how to get your land tested.



[HEALTHYROOTSPROJECT.COM](http://HEALTHYROOTSPROJECT.COM)

**The Mahfood Group LLC**  
1061 Waterdam Plaza Drive  
Suite 201  
McMurray, PA 15317

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