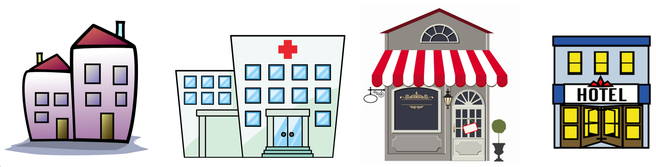
How are Soil Reference Values (SRVs) Used in a Soil Investigation?

Soil samples obtained from contaminated site

Laboratory Analysis to determine amount of chemical in soil (chemical concentration)

Chemical concentrations less than SRVs
Site example chemical concentration = 5 mg/kg
Example chemical SRV = 10 mg/kg

Soil is safe for the people who use the site

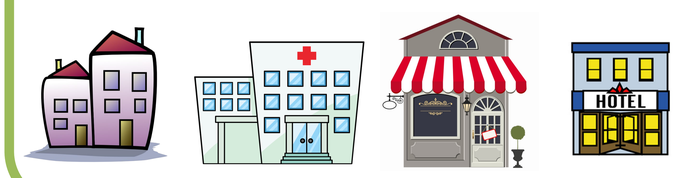


Chemical concentrations greater than SRVs
Site example chemical concentration = 15 mg/kg
Example chemical SRV = 10 mg/kg

Site specific soil investigation
Determines if soil is safe for people who use site

- How site is used and will be used
- Chemicals present in soil
- Amount of chemical in soil
- Type of soil on site
- People's access to contaminated soil

Soil is safe for the people who use the site



Soil may present a risk to people on site

Site specific cleanup values determined

- Based on same methodology as SRVs
- Includes site specific information from the soil investigation

Chemical concentrations less than cleanup values
Site example chemical concentration = 5 mg/kg
Example chemical cleanup value = 10 mg/kg

Soil is safe for the people who use the site

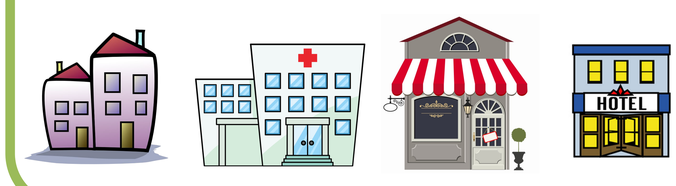
Chemical concentrations greater than cleanup values
Site example chemical concentration = 20 mg/kg
Example chemical cleanup value = 10 mg/kg

Soil may present a risk to people on site

Measures required to ensure people are safe

- Removal of contaminated soil
- Eliminate people's contact with contaminated soil

Soil is safe for the people who use the site



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency