

# Maui Wildfire Recovery

Stabilizing Soil on Your Property - What to Expect November 1, 2023

Maui gives so much to the world. As guests, we are honored to give our support back.

- EPA teams will apply a soil stabilizer on the ash in coordination with local officials.
- EPA may apply the stabilizer on properties before or after residents are able to return.

What Will Happen **Before** Soil Stabilizer is Applied:

- EPA teams will check the property and surrounding area for wildlife, animal feeders, and plants.
- A cultural monitor will accompany the teams to ensure any historic structures and other areas known to have cultural artifacts or ancestral ashes are not sprayed.

What You'll See on Your Property **After** Soil Stabilizer is Applied:

- A thin, clear crust on the surface of sprayed materials.
- The thin crust is see-through and easily broken apart.
- Soil stabilizer is non-toxic when dry.



Ash and debris contain harmful contaminants and high pH that can impact human health and the environment. If you re-enter the burn area, please take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and others such as wearing the provided protective gear and thoroughly reviewing your reentry packet.



To remove Soiltac<sup>®</sup> from the surface of a recovered object, run it under hot water or steam the surface then wipe with a soft cloth.



Photo of crews on a burned property with ash rising around them; photo was taken before Soiltac application.



Photo of crews on a burned property after Soiltac has been applied; floating ash is no longer visible.

## What is being sprayed:

- The ash footprint that will be removed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Phase 2.
- Under the hood and interior of certain cars and the areas around them.
- Any portion of a structure that remains on property AND is suspected to have asbestos.

## What is not being sprayed:

- Areas on properties outside of the structure footprint that do not contain ash (i.e. yard, driveway).
- ✗ Plants and vegetation.
- × Animal feeders.
- Cultural resources, historic structures, and areas known to contain collections of cultural artifacts or ancestral ashes.

### **Commonly Asked Questions**

#### Can I request to not have soil stabilizer applied?

**No.** Soil stabilizer will be applied to the ash footprint on all impacted properties in Lāhainā (excluding areas of cultural significance) to protect human health and the environment.

#### Is Soiltac<sup>®</sup> harmful to human health?

EPA reviewed the ingredients of Soiltac<sup>®</sup> to confirm:

- It is non-toxic when dry.
- Applying a soil stabilizer is more effective at protecting human health and the environment than leaving ash and debris as-is.

#### Is Soiltac<sup>®</sup> a microplastic? Will it add microplastics to the environment?

• While Soiltac<sup>®</sup> (when dried and hardened) meets the federal definition of a plastic, EPA does not anticipate it being broken into pieces so small that it could be considered a microplastic.

• Soiltac<sup>®</sup> will be removed with all ash and debris as part of Phase 2 of the cleanup and disposed of safely.

## For more info about EPA's work, contact us at:

Thone: 808-539-0555

Email: <u>R9Wildfiresinfo@epa.gov</u>

Uebsite: <a href="mailto:epa.gov/maui-wildfires">epa.gov/maui-wildfires</a>