

Spotlight on The Mahfood Group, LLC



Drive 20 minutes in any direction from Downtown Pittsburgh and you will eventually find some of the beautiful farmland that Western Pennsylvania is known for – farmland redeveloped into developments that incorporate that natural beauty into their design.

But what many people don't realize is that these developments may carry a hidden risk to you and your family.

John Mahfood, president of the Bridgeville-based Mahfood Group, specializes in environmental consulting and site remediation.

Mahfood said that people don't realize some of the hazards that can be lurking right under their feet and foundations.

"A lot of suburban Pittsburgh is redeveloped farmland," Mahfood said. "And a lot of that land still harbors the pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals left over from the working farms. Homeowners often don't realize this."

Mahfood said firms such as his, which specialize in removing these chemicals and contaminants from the soil, can reduce the health risk associated with these types of exposures.

"It's bad enough that you may come in contact with these things, but for children, contact with soil-based contaminants is more important to address," Mahfood said. "Kids play outside a lot, and they can come into contact with these chemicals day in and day out."

To help residents keep their land safe, the Mahfood Group started thehealthyrootsproject.com, a program dedicated to helping homeowners identify whether or not their properties may be at risk.

"We can come onsite, test your soil and restore any areas disrupted by the testing," Mahfood said. "This process takes only a couple hours at most, but can save you and your children from a lifetime of exposure to harmful substances."

Older homes not associated with farmland may be at risk as well. "Who really knows what the previous owner did or dumped on the property? Everyone knows about the dangers of interior lead-based paint, but if the previous owner used lead-based exterior paint, there may be some residue in the soil," Mahfood said.

So what can you do as a home owner, buyer, or builder? Ask questions. If you are a homeowner 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. To find out how to get your land tested contact The Mahfood Group at 412.221.5056 and reference The Healthy Roots Project when you call.

Concerned builders, lenders, real estate agents or developers can contact The Mahfood Group as well. □

HEALTHY LIVING: Do you know what is in your soil?

Learn more. Visit our website or call 412.221.5056. Please reference this ad when you call.

Residential developments built on farmlands are at risk of containing harmful pesticide residue in their soil, which can be especially harmful to children and pets. Soil testing and community awareness are key to addressing this issue.

HEALTHYROOTSPROJECT.COM



This project is fueled by The Mahfood Group LLC, an environmental consulting firm focused in the future.