

# UNDERSTANDING BIOAVAILABILITY of ARSENIC and LEAD in Soils at Superfund Sites



Arsenic and lead present in soil must be bioavailable in order to pose a risk to your health.

Contaminated soil often contains different forms of arsenic or lead that have different bioavailability.

Bioavailable forms of arsenic and lead will be **absorbed into the body and processed or stored** following ingestion of contaminated soil.

**Bioavailable**  
arsenic or lead  
(light circle ○)

**Non-bioavailable**  
arsenic or lead  
(dark circle ●)

A contaminant that is **not bioavailable is not absorbed, and leaves the body.**

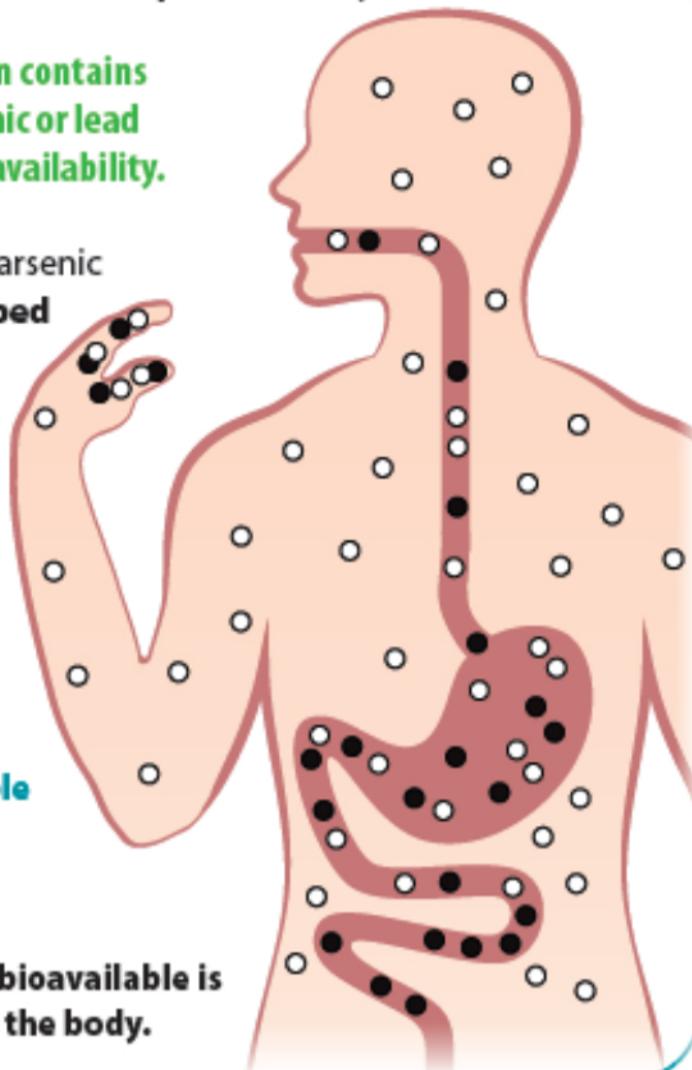


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