

How to Collect Soil Samples

Step 1: Identify an area of interest for your soil sample.

Step 2: Collect Soil - For a large area, collect soil from 5-10 random spots in that area, and combine in a clean container. For a small area, collect soil from 3 random spots and combine in a clean container.

(See table below for sampling depth per spot.)

Step 3: Mix soil well in clean container.

Step 4: Remove pebbles, rocks, and roots, and air dry.

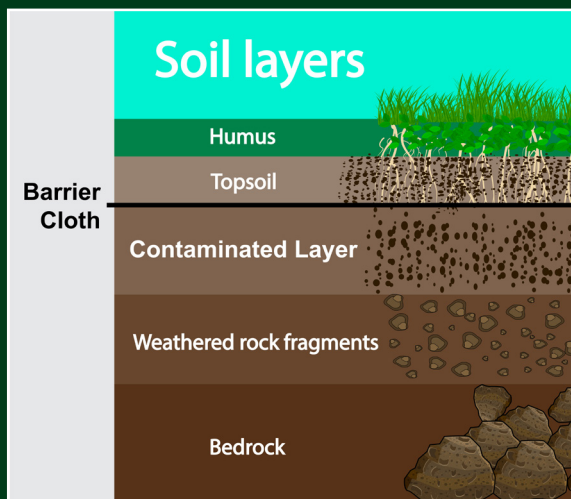
Do not use a flame, oven or hairdryer to dry the soil!

Step 5: Transfer 1-2 cups of the mixed soil into a clean one-quart Ziplock bag.

Note: For more than one sample, repeat steps 1-5.

Rinse your container between samples. Limit of 3 sample bags/person.

Do not dig below the barrier fabric.



Area of Interest	Sampling Depth for Each Random Spot (inches)
Garden Area	Collect all soil from the surface down to 6-8 inches deep
Play Area/non-garden area	Collect all soil from the surface down to 1-2 inches deep
Areas where they frequently recreate	Collect all soil from the surface down to 1-2 inches deep

We encourage participants to bring in multiple soil samples to have them screened for lead. Please use separate bags for each sample.