

# Soil Sampling Collection Procedure

## TOOLS NEEDED:



### 1. Digging tool, like a garden trowel (small shovel)

- a. If a garden trowel or similar is unavailable, a stainless steel kitchen spoon can be used instead.

### 2. Gloves

- a. Gardening or nitrile gloves which you can find at the hardware store.

### 3. Two unused gallon-sized zip-top bags

### 4. Black Sharpie pen

### 5. Printed Soil Sample Submission form

- a. Download and print from [HERE](#).
- b. This completed form must be submitted with your sample.

## HOW TO CHOOSE SAMPLE LOCATIONS:

### For Intact Properties

- **Choose 4** areas on your property with **exposed surface soil** - not covered by gravel or concrete or other paving materials.
- Select spots **near high-use areas** like **play areas**, outdoor eating areas, gardens, or walkways.
- Obtain soil samples from both **front and back yard locations**, if possible.
- Chosen soil sampling locations should be at least 10 feet apart from each other, if possible.
  - (Optional) Sketch a simple map of your property noting sample locations—this may help if follow-up testing is needed.

### For Damaged or Destroyed Properties After Usace Phase 2 Soil/Debris Removal

- Only collect soil if your property has been cleared for safe access and after USACE Soil/Debris removal is completed.
- **Choose 4 areas** on your property with **exposed surface soil** - not covered by gravel or concrete or other paving materials.
  - Select spots **near future expected high-use areas** like play areas, outdoor eating areas, gardens, or walkways.
  - Do not choose areas for soil samples where new structures will be rebuilt.



## For Damaged or Destroyed Properties After Use Phase 2 Soil/Debris Removal



- Obtain soil samples from both **front and back yard** locations, if possible.
- Do not dig in debris piles or areas where structural materials have settled.
- Chosen soil sampling locations should be at least 10 feet apart from each other, if possible.
  - (Optional) Sketch a simple map of your property noting sample locations—this may help if follow-up testing is needed.
- On the Soil Sample Submission form, check the box indicating your property was fire-damaged or destroyed.

### STEP-BY-STEP SOIL COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS:

1



Print and complete the Soil Sample Submission form and take a photo for your records.

- Please legibly print your email address on the Soil Sample Submission form, as the laboratory will send the soil testing report to that email address.

2



Clearly label 1<sup>st</sup> gallon zip-top bag on the outside with the property owner's name and address using a black sharpie pen. This bag will hold the soil.

3



Choose the 4 soil sampling locations.

4



Wash your digging tool and hands with soap and water. Dry with a clean paper towel. Dispose of paper towel after use.

5



Take the digging tool, gloves, and zip-top bag to the first location.

6



Put on the gloves to avoid direct soil exposure to your hands.



## STEP-BY-STEP SOIL COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED):

7



### At each location:

Remove rocks, mulch, or grass from the soil surface.

- If grass is present, gently remove the root mat (~1 inch deep) to expose the soil underneath.

Dig a hole, not more than 3 inches deep, and collect approximately a **1/4-cup** volume of soil and place it into the labeled zip-top bag. Try to collect equal amounts of soil from each location, this will result in a more even mix of soils from your property that are tested.

8



Repeat Step 7 at the next location, adding each new sample collected into the same zip-top bag holding the previous soil samples.

9



After all 4 locations are sampled, seal the zip-top bag and knead it gently to mix the soil thoroughly. **The volume in the bag should be no more than 1 cup total after collecting soil from all 4 areas.**

10



Wash hands and digging tool with soap and water.

11



Place the sealed soil bag and the completed Soil Sample Submission form inside the second zip-top bag and seal the outer bag.

## WHERE TO TAKE THE SOIL SAMPLE:

Eaton Fire samples should be dropped off at:



**Altadena One-Stop Permit Center**  
464 W. Woodbury Road, Suite 210  
Altadena, CA 91001

**Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–4:30 PM**

Palisades Fire samples should be dropped off at:



**Calabasas One-Stop Permit Center**  
27001 Agoura Road, Suite 250  
Calabasas, CA 91302

**Monday–Thursday, 7:00 AM–4:30 PM**  
**Friday, 7:00 AM–3:30 PM**

Samples will be picked up by the contracted certified laboratory and tested for lead concentrations only. **You will receive your result by email within 7–10 business days.**

For more information visit: [ph.lacounty.gov/wildfire-soil-testing/](http://ph.lacounty.gov/wildfire-soil-testing/)

