

Soil Sample Information & Screening Request Form (H-401)

Contact Information

Name: _____

(Name must match the name on your soil sample bag.)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Are you the property owner? Yes No

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How should we send your results? by Mail by Email

Send to *(if different from above)*: _____

Acknowledgement Regarding Soil Sampling & Results

Please mark (✓), sign, and date after collecting your samples.

- I collected samples from different locations in my garden/lawn, according to the sampling instructions.
- I understand these results are *only an estimate*, and are provided for *informational purposes only* at the request of the property owner.
I understand that these results are provided on the condition that they shall not be used in any legal proceedings against the City, any property owner, or any other person or entity.
- I understand that the City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory has no obligation beyond providing these results.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Payment Information

- Cash (exact change only)
- Check (Payable to the City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory)
- Credit Card (Visa and Mastercard only)
Credit Card # _____ EXP: _____ CVV: _____
Name on Card _____

Sample Information

Sample 1

Description: _____ ID Label: _____

Collection Date: _____ Collection Time: _____

- Analyze for: Nutrient analysis (*phosphorus, potassium, organic matter, pH & conductivity*)
 Lead screening
 Both

Sample 2

Description: _____ ID Label: _____

Collection Date: _____ Collection Time: _____

- Analyze for: Nutrient analysis (*phosphorus, potassium, organic matter, pH & conductivity*)
 Lead screening
 Both

Sample 3

Description: _____ ID Label: _____

Collection Date: _____ Collection Time: _____

- Analyze for: Nutrient analysis (*phosphorus, potassium, organic matter, pH & conductivity*)
 Lead screening
 Both

Sample 4

Description: _____ ID Label: _____

Collection Date: _____ Collection Time: _____

- Analyze for: Nutrient analysis (*phosphorus, potassium, organic matter, pH & conductivity*)
 Lead screening
 Both

Payment Calculation

Testing Fees & Payment Information

Nutrient analysis fees: _____ x \$15/sample = \$ _____
samples total

Lead screening fees: _____ x \$10/sample = \$ _____
samples total

Both (Nutrient & Lead): _____ x \$25/sample = \$ _____
samples total

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Total DUE:
\$ _____

Total PAID:
\$ _____

- cash
- credit card
- check

Soil Screening Drop-Off Instructions

Fill out the Soil Sample Information & Screening Request Form (H-401). This form must be completed and submitted along with your samples. You can complete it at home and bring it with you, or you can fill out a copy at the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD). Samples can be dropped off Monday - Friday, 8:00AM - 4:30 PM. Take or mail your sample, paperwork and payment to: **MHD Laboratory | 841 N. Broadway, 2nd floor | Milwaukee, WI 53202**



Lead & Nutrient Analysis

1. Gather Your Supplies

- Trowel or shovel
- Garden gloves
- Measuring cup
- Clean plastic bucket or tray
- Clean gallon sized plastic zippered bag
- Label bag with your Name, Address, Sample description and date soil sample(s) collected

2. Sample Your Garden

Pick several random places in your garden to sample for each 25 sq. feet (5ft. x 5ft. section) of garden area. Use dry soil.

Muddy samples will be rejected.

- Small gardens: take 2 or 3 samples
- Larger gardens: take 4 or 5 samples

3. Dig

At each sample location:

- Remove surface plants or mulch
 - Dig down 6 inches before taking the sample
 - Put several scoops of soil in a clean plastic bucket
- You'll need a total of at least 3 cups soil from each garden.*
- Repeat the above steps for all sample locations

4. Mix Well

Mix together all of the soil samples from your garden in the plastic bucket.

*Please note, samples less than 3 cups in volume or that appear to contain mulch, surface vegetation, animal droppings, other foreign materials or have a muddy texture are **NOT** acceptable and will be rejected.*

5. Fill and Label Your Sample(s)

- Put at least 3 cups of the mixed soil in a gallon-sized plastic zippered bag
- Label bag with name, address, sample description and date
- DO NOT use paper/brown bags, grocery bags or non-sealable containers

6. Submit Your Sample(s)

- Seal the bag
- Complete the soil sample information and screening request form included in this brochure
- Follow "Soil Screening: Drop-off Instructions" listed under form
- Include your payment

What Can My Soil Be Screened For?

Lead

Particularly dangerous to children. Food grown in lead contaminated soils are unlikely to accumulate enough lead to present a safety hazard – instead, the danger comes from accidentally ingesting lead-contaminated dust.

Potassium

A nutrient that assists in early plant growth, efficient use of water, and improves resistance to diseases and insects

Phosphorus

A nutrient that helps young plants grow faster

pH (acid/alkaline)

Affects the activity of soil microorganisms and the amount of nutrients available to plants

Soil Conductivity

The amount of salt in the soil. Plant growth is impaired in soils with excessive salt.

Organic Matter

Compost and other materials that help prevent compaction and can lead to an increase in root growth. It also helps soil better absorb nutrients.

FAQ

Why Should I Have My Soil Tested?

- Know your potential lead exposure
- Grow better and healthier produce
- Choose the right plants for your garden



Garden Soil Screening

Instructions and Submission Form

Testing reports will include specific remedies based on the specific conditions of your garden. Results will typically be sent within 10-15 business days.

(414) 286 - 3526
mhdlab@milwaukee.gov
www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab