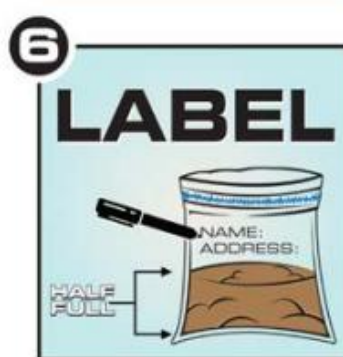
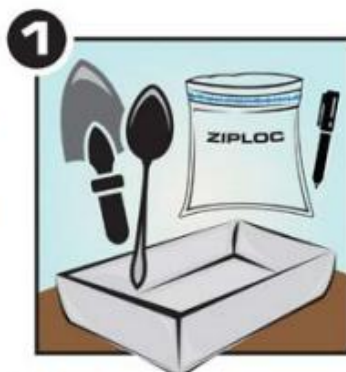


Soil Sample Collection Instructions

1. Gather materials and select a clean container (not galvanized metal) to deposit soil samples. Use a clean trowel, spoon or spade to collect the samples.
2. Identify the sample collection site. Areas nearest to your house are likely to have elevated lead levels if your house was painted with lead-based paint at some point. However, if this is where you garden or plan to garden, the location may be appropriate. Consider drawing a sketch of the site and/or take a photo for future reference. Remove surface debris, such as plant residues, mulch or turf thatch, from the soil before inserting the spade or trowel.
3. Collect a total of five to ten soil samples (a few ounces) for a total of one cup from various areas of your yard or garden and deposit into your clear container; this will be a composite sample composed of multiple sites. Since only a very small portion of the soil is used for testing, it is very important that the sample be representative of an area. Discard any large rocks or debris.
4. If analyzing for gardening purposes, collect samples from roughly the root depth of the vegetable or plants you intend to grow. If you are concerned about exposure to surface soils (i.e. children's play areas, tracking soil into the house, bare soils), collect samples from the top one or two inches. Note: It is important to avoid areas where fertilizer or lime have been spilled or recently applied, fertilizer band areas of last year's crops, compose piles, field borders and poorly drained areas.
5. Mix the soil samples together thoroughly and place in a clean, re-sealable freezer or food storage bag labeled with your name, phone number and address.
6. Deliver the sample to the Public Health Laboratory at 3838 N. Rural St., Indianapolis, IN 46205.



MARION COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Instructions compiled from Purdue's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and Soil Kitchen.