

# Soil and Dust Wipe Sampling Protocols

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## Soil Sampling Procedure for Lead

This sampling procedure covers the collection of bare soil in residential properties. It does not address sampling design content that is used by risk assessors and environmental investigators.

- I. Soil Sampling Tools and Materials
  - A. 50 mL polypropylene flat-bottom tubes with caps stored in a tray or plastic bag. A 1-quart or 1-gallon plastic resealable bag may also be used. If using plastic bags, they must be double-bagged unless they are 4 millimeter industrial strength bag.
  - B. Non-sterilized non-powdered disposable gloves
  - C. Property sketch
  - D. Permanent ink pen
  - E. Disposable wipes
  - F. Environmental Lead Test Request Form, DCH-0558. This form can be obtained from the MDHHS/Trace Metals Unit website or the Bureau of Laboratories website and is required to accompany soil samples for analysis.
  - G. Trash bags
  - H. Sample tools i.e. spoon, coring tool or sample tube.
- II. Bare Soil Sampling Procedures and Techniques

- A. Soil sampling is not recommended when the ground is frozen. If there is snow cover preventing soil sampling, soil samples must be collected when the snow has melted and the ground is not frozen.
- B. The soil samples and areas of bare soil should be identified on a site plan sketch.
- C. Sampling containers should be labeled with site-specific identifiers (i.e., site address, unique identifier number and collection date).
- D. Put on a new pair of clean, disposable gloves for each sampling event.
- E. Sampling Techniques
  - i. All soil samples for residences or child-occupied facilities are composite samples.
  - ii. Although paint chips should not be oversampled, they should also not be excluded from the soil sample, since they are part of the soil matrix. The assessor should make an effort to avoid including grass, twigs, stones, and other large debris (other than paint chips) in the sample. Samples should be taken from bare soil areas only; grass or sod does not need to be removed.
  - iii. When all subsamples of the composite sample have been placed in the sampling container, the container should be sealed. If using a plastic bag and the bag is not 4 mil industrial weight, the sample should be double-bagged.
- F. Sample Collection Methodology: Determine the depth to which the container (centrifuge tube), should be inserted in the soil in order to collect the top ½ inch of soil. Push the container into the soil and scrape the container at least 4 inches horizontally along the soil surface. A spoon may also be used to sample soil. If a spoon is used, then it needs to be cleaned after each series of subsamples, or if using plastic spoons you may use a new spoon for each sample. If soil is dense or hard, coring sampling methods should be used.
- G. Composite Sample Collection: Composite collection consists of 3 to 10 subsamples. Subsamples should be more than 1 ft. and less than 3 ft. apart. For larger areas and along the perimeter of a building, subsamples can be spaced up to 6 ft. apart.
- H. Sampling Locations
  - i. Building Foundation Perimeter: If bare soil is present, soil along the foundation should be sampled. Refer to collection procedures in prior section. Subsamples should be taken linearly and evenly spaced along the length of the area to be sampled. Soil should be sampled within 3 ft. of the structure foundation. In some cases a composite sample for each side of the house may be required to better characterize the condition of the soil around the building.
  - ii. Bare Soil Areas: Bare soil areas are defined as 9 sq. ft. or larger. A play area is defined as a bare soil area of frequent contact by the child under six years old as indicated by play equipment, toys, observations of play patterns, or information provided by parents, caretakers or property owners. Refer to collection procedures in prior section.
  - iii. Vegetable Garden Soil: For vegetable gardens, 6-10 sub-samples should be collected, depending on the size of the garden. Samples should be collected to a depth of 3 or 4 inches to account for previous soil mixing. Samples should be evenly spaced and collected using an 'X' or zigzag pattern using a trowel or coring tool. Samples should be mixed in a clean plastic container and approximately one cup of

soil should be removed for lead analysis.

### III. Labeling the Container

- A. For each sample collected, using a permanent marker, record the following: a unique sample identification number; site identifier (i.e., street address); location where the sample was taken (i.e., dripline, yard or play area); and date of collection. The sample identification number and sample description written on the sample tube should match the sample identification number and sample description written on the Environmental Lead Test Requisition form.

NOTE: The laboratory uses the sample identification number and sample description to match the sample tube to the requisition form and assign it a unique in-house number for sample analysis.

### IV. Lead Soil Hazard Identification

- A. In accordance with Michigan administrative rule R325.99402 and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 40 CFR Part 745.227, the following are the levels at which a soil sample is deemed a lead hazard during a lead risk assessment or environmental investigation. If soil testing for a lead abatement project clearance is performed, soil results under these levels are considered passing clearance.

- B. Hazard Determination and Failing Clearance Levels - at or above:

400 µg/g      bare soil in child play areas and gardens

1200 µg/g     bare soil at the foundation/dripline and any other sections of the yard with bare soil

### Dust Wipe Sampling for Lead

Surface wipe samples for settled dust shall be collected from floors (both carpeted and uncarpeted), window troughs, and window sills.

### V. Wipe Sampling Materials and Supplies

- A. All wipe samples of settled dust are collected using a disposable wipe which is 15cm x 15cm. This individually-packaged "Ghost Wipe" meets ASTM Designation: E 1792.

NOTE: Prior to use, check the wipe package to ensure that the wipe is not expired. If expired, do not use and contact the laboratory for more Ghost Wipe supplies.

- B. Powderless plastic gloves. Disposable gloves are required to prevent cross-sample contamination from hands.

- C. 50 mL polypropylene flat-bottom tubes with caps.

NOTE: Plastic sealable bags are not acceptable for dust sampling due to the potential loss of settled dust within the plastic bag.

- D. Dust sample collection form: Environmental Lead Test Requisition, DCH-0558. This form can be obtained from the MDHHS/Trace Metals Unit website or the Bureau of Laboratories website and is required to accompany dust wipe samples

for analysis.

E. Template options

- i. Hard, smooth, reusable templates made of aluminum or reusable plastic or disposable cardboard or disposable plastic. Templates should be 1 ft x 1 ft (1 ft<sup>2</sup>) or of otherwise accurately known dimensions, between 0.1 ft<sup>2</sup> and 2 ft<sup>2</sup>. Reusable templates should be wiped with a clean disposable cloth before and after each use. Disposable templates are not used for more than a single surface. Templates are not used for windows due to the variability in size and shape (use masking tape instead).
- ii. Masking tape. Tape is used to define the sampling areas when a template is not practical. It is required for wiping window sills and troughs in order to avoid contact with window jambs and channel edges. It is also used for adhering templates to the surface to be sampled.

F. Permanent marker

G. Trash bag or other receptacle

H. Measuring tape

I. Disposable shoe coverings (optional)

J. Rack, bag or box to carry tubes and other supplies/materials (optional)

VI. Wipe Sampling Procedure

A. Don disposable gloves. If gloves are not stored in a sealed box, discard the first glove. Use new gloves for each sample collected.

B. Outline wipe area:

- i. Floors: For wide, flat areas, use a sampling template. The template should lie flat on the surface. Identify the area to be wiped. If no template is available, apply masking tape to perimeter of the wipe area to form an area of one square foot (12 in. by 12 in.). The tape should be positioned in a straight line and corners should be perpendicular.
- ii. Window sills and other rectangular surfaces: Identify the area to be wiped, which should be at least 0.1 ft<sup>2</sup> in size (approximately 2 in. by 8 in.). Do not touch the wipe area. Mark the area with tape and measure the area to be sampled to within one-eighth of an inch.
- iii. When using tape, do not cross the boundary tape or floor markings, but be sure to wipe the entire sampling area. It is permissible to touch the tape with the wipe, but not the surface beyond the tape.
- iv. Do not walk on or touch surfaces to be sampled (the wipe areas).

C. Inspect the wipe package. If it is contaminated with dust, clean the package with a cloth. Discard any wipes that are dried out or visibly contaminated.

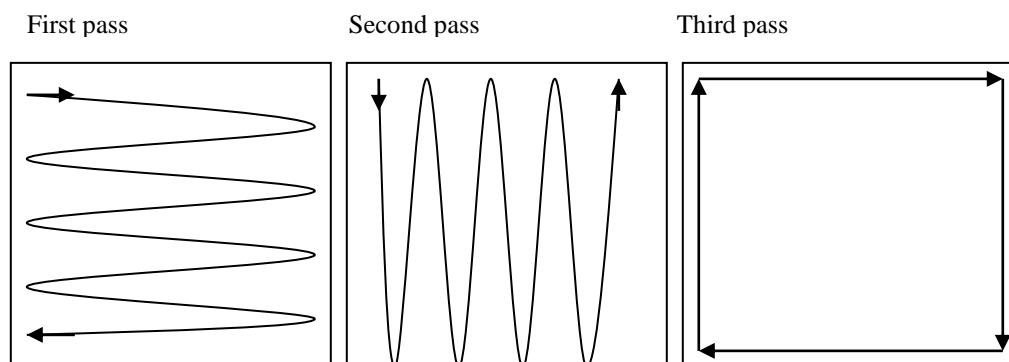
D. Partially unscrew the cap on the tube to be sure that it can be opened.

E. Place the wipe at one corner of the wipe surface with wipe fully opened and flat.

F. First wipe pass (side-to-side): With the fingers together, grasp the wipe between the thumb and the palm. Wipe using the pressure and length of the fingers and

the palm of the hand. Press down firmly, but not excessively. Do not touch the surface with the thumb. If the wipe area is a square, wipe side-to-side with as many "S" or "Z" like motions as are necessary to completely cover the entire wipe area. Exerting excessive pressure on the wipe will cause it to curl. Exerting too little pressure will result in poor dust collection. Always press the front edge of the wipe forward. Attempt to remove all visible dust from the wipe area.

- G. Second wipe pass (top-to-bottom): Fold the wipe in half with the contaminated side facing inward. The wipe can be straightened out by laying it on the wipe area, contaminated side up, and folding it over. Do not touch the contaminated side of the wipe with the hand or fingers. Do not shake the wipe in an attempt to straighten it out, as dust may be lost during shaking. Once folded, place wipe in the top corner of the wipe area and press down firmly with the fingers and the palm. Repeat wiping the area with "S" or "Z"-like motions, but in a top-to-bottom direction for the second pass. Attempt to remove all visible dust.
- H. Third pass (perimeter): Fold the wipe in half again with the contaminated side facing inward. Once folded, place wipe in the top corner of the wipe area and press down firmly with the fingers. Wipe around the perimeter of the area, staying inside the border, and focusing on collecting dust from the corners.



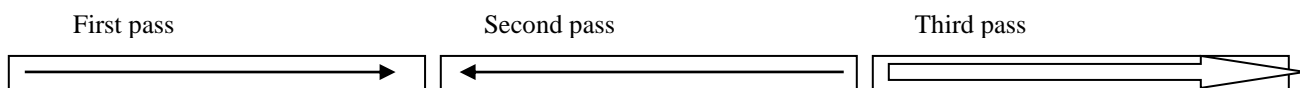
I. Window sills

For window sills marked by masking tape, make two side-to-side passes over this surface, the second pass with the wipe folded so that the contaminated side faces inward. After the second pass, fold the wipe in half again, with the contaminated side facing inward, and wipe the surface for a third time, focusing on collecting dust from the corners of the sampling area. Do not attempt to wipe the irregular edges presented by the contour of the window channel. Avoid touching other portions of the window with the wipe. Do not use more than a single surface wipe for each container. If heavily dust-laden, a smaller area should be wiped, as long as the area is a minimum of 0.1 ft<sup>2</sup> (approx 2 in. x 8 in.).

J. Window troughs (wells)

For a window trough, mark the sampled area using tape, and make two side-to-side passes over this surface. After the first pass, fold the wipe in half so that the contaminated side faces inward. After the second pass, fold the wipe in half again, with the contaminated side facing inward, and wipe the surface for a third time, focusing on collecting dust from the corners of the sampling area. It is not

necessary to wipe the entire window trough, but do not wipe less than 0.1 ft<sup>2</sup> (approx. 2 in. x 8 in.).



#### K. Packaging the wipe

After wiping, fold the wipe with the contaminated side facing inward again, insert the wipe into the tube without touching anything else and screw the cap onto the tube.

#### L. Labeling the container

For each sample collected, using a permanent marker, record the following: a unique sample identification number; site identifier (i.e., street address); location where the sample was taken (i.e., room number and floor/sill/trough); dimensions of the wipe area; and date of collection. The sample identification number and the sample description written on the sample tube should match the sample identification number and sample description written on the Environmental Lead Test Requisition form.

NOTE: The laboratory uses the sample identification number and sample description to match the sample tube to the requisition form and assign it a unique in-house number for sample analysis.

#### M. Area Measurement

After sampling, measure the surface area wiped to the nearest eighth of an inch using a tape measure or a ruler. The size of the area wiped must be a least 0.10 ft<sup>2</sup> in order to obtain an adequate limit of quantification. No more than 2 square feet should be wiped with the sample wipe. Record specific measurements or square inches for each area wiped on the test requisition form. For floor sampling, 1.0 ft<sup>2</sup> is the standard area.

#### N. Trash Disposal

After sampling, remove the masking tape and throw it away in a trash bag. Remove gloves; put all contaminated gloves and sampling debris into a trash bag. Remove the trash bag when leaving the dwelling. Do not throw away gloves and sampling debris inside the dwelling unit.

### VII. Blank Preparation

- A. Collect one blank wipe for every 20 field samples. The field blank is handled the same as field samples except that no surface is wiped. The purpose of the field blank is to ensure quality sampling techniques and detect sampling material contamination. To collect a blank wipe, remove a wipe from the wrapper with a new glove, shake it wipe open, refold as it occurs during the actual sampling procedure, and then insert it into empty tube without touching any surface or other object.
- B. Contamination of samples can be minimized by frequent changing of gloves; the use of shoe covers and regular cleaning of sampling equipment.
- C. If a field blank is greater than or equal to 20 µg, the field blank is considered

contaminated. Since sample results are not corrected for contamination based on the field blank or any other analytical blank, the laboratory recommends recollection of the site when field blanks show contamination

VIII. Lead Dust Wipe Hazard Identification

- A. In accordance with Michigan administrative rule R325.99402 and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 40 CFR Part 745.227, the following are the levels at which a dust sample is deemed a lead paint hazard during a lead risk assessment or environmental investigation. For clearance examination testing for lead abatement projects, if dust wipe results are under these levels, the dust testing portion of a clearance examination passes.
- B. Hazard Determination and Failing Clearance Levels - at or above:
  - 10 µg/ft<sup>2</sup>, floors
  - 100 µg/ft<sup>2</sup>, interior window sills
  - 100 µg/ft<sup>2</sup>, interior window troughs
  - 40 µg/ft<sup>2</sup>, exterior porch floors

IX. Assessor Decontamination

- A. When conducting sampling, the assessor, should avoid hand-to-mouth contact (i.e., smoking, eating, drinking, and applying cosmetics) and should wash hands with running water immediately after sampling. The assessor should ask to use the resident's bathroom for this purpose. Wet wipes may be used if running water or the bathroom is not available.

X. Form Completion and Fees

- A. Complete the Environmental Lead Sampling Requisition form (DCH-0568) and submit to the laboratory with the samples to be tested. Record any field notes regarding type of wipe used, lot number, collection protocol, etc. on the requisition or a separate piece of paper. Chain of custody requirements should be followed, if applicable.
- B. Fees: County certified lead assessors are to submit a check payable to the State of Michigan and a list of clients with each specimen. Attach the check to the Environmental Lead Sampling Requisition. Interested parties may establish a billing procedure for testing services by contacting the laboratory at (517) 335-9490. Public health-related samples, which are environmental lead specimens for lead-poisoned clients, are exempt from a fee. Individuals wishing to submit samples should contact their local health department to arrange billing, submittal, and payment. For more information regarding fees, contact the MDHHS lab at (517) 335-9490.

XI. Quality Assurance/Quality Control

- A. Any questions or problems concerning environmental sampling results should be directed to:
  - MDHHS Trace Metals Laboratory
  - 3350 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
  - Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 335-8357

Fax: (517) 335-9776

Email: [fisherk@michigan.gov](mailto:fisherk@michigan.gov)

- B. Questions on sampling procedures can be directed to the MDHHS Healthy Homes Section at (517) 335-9390.

### **Transportation of soils and dust wipes**

- XII. Transportation of dust wipes and soil samples to the lab shall be by FedEx carrier, United States Postal Service or by personal drop off by the submitter.
- XIII. Additional Reading
- A. ASTM E 1727-16. Standard practice for Field Collection of Soil Samples for Subsequent Lead Determination. Copies are available on the ASTM website (for a fee) at: <http://www.astm.org/Standards/E1727.htm>
  - B. ASTM E 1728-16. Standard practice for Collection of Settled Dust Samples Using Wipe Sampling Methods for Subsequent Lead Determination. Copies are available (for a fee) on the ASTM website at: <http://www.astm.org/Standards/E1728.htm>.
  - C. *Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing*, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, June, 1995. Copies of the Guidelines are available (for free) on the HUD website at: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/healthy\\_homes/lbp/hudguidelines](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes/lbp/hudguidelines).
  - D. ASTM E1792. Standard Specification for Wipe Sampling Materials for Lead in Surface Dust. Copies are available (for a fee) on the ASTM website at: <http://www.astm.org/Standards/E1792.htm>.