

# Attention Benton Harbor Gardeners

## Free Soil Lead Tests on Thursday, May 12th

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is holding a SoilSHOP at the upcoming Water Response Resource and Opportunity Fair.

**Where:** Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor, Joel E. Smilow Teen Center.  
190 West Empire Drive, Benton Harbor

**When:** Thursday, May 12, 4-6 p.m.

### What is a SoilSHOP?

A SoilSHOP is an event where you can bring soil from your garden to be tested for lead at no cost. It will take about 15 minutes to test the soil and get your results. MDHHS staff will be available to explain ways you can limit your exposure to lead in soil while gardening.

### How do I collect a soil sample for the SoilSHOP?

- 1** Identify the garden area where you want to collect the sample. Put on garden gloves to collect the soil.
- 2** Collect soil from 4 to 5 random spots, digging no deeper than 6 inches.
- 3** Mix soil together in a clean container. A clean bucket would work, but you can also use other containers, like a plant pot or bowl.
- 4** Remove pebbles, rocks, and roots. Let the soil dry naturally by air. Do not use a flame, oven, or hairdryer to dry the soil.
- 5** Transfer 2 to 3 cups of the mixed soil into a clean quart-sized Ziplock bag. Label with the location of the sample and total number of spots where soil was collected.
- 6** Bring soil to the SoilSHOP for your free and quick soil lead test.

This video also explains how to take a soil sample [bit.ly/Soil-Sample](https://bit.ly/Soil-Sample). If you have questions about collecting your sample for the SoilSHOP, please call 800-648-6942.

**TOOLS**



**MIX WELL**



**STIR MIXTURE AND DRY IN SUN**

**LABEL SAMPLE BAG**

