



# Standard Practice for Field Collection of Soil Samples for Subsequent Lead Determination<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1727; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the collection of bare soil samples from areas around buildings and related structures using coring and scooping methods.

1.2 This practice is not suitable for collection of soil samples from areas that are paved or otherwise covered with grass, mulch, or the like.

1.3 This practice does not address the sampling design criteria (that is, sampling plan that includes the number and location of samples) that are used for risk assessment and other lead hazard activities.

1.4 This practice contains notes that are explanatory and are not part of the mandatory requirements of this practice.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The inch-pound units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

- D4840 Guide for Sample Chain-of-Custody Procedures
- D7659 Guide for Strategies for Surface Sampling of Metals and Metalloids for Worker Protection
- E1605 Terminology Relating to Lead in Buildings
- E1613 Test Method for Determination of Lead by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES), Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrometry

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.23 on Lead Hazards Associated with Buildings.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

(FAAS), or Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (GFAAS) Techniques  
E2239 Practice for Record Keeping and Record Preservation for Lead Hazard Activities

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms not appearing here, see Terminology E1605.

### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *soil collection container*—a sealable rigid-walled container or a resealable plastic bag for holding and transporting the soil sample from the field to the laboratory.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—The volume must be sufficient to hold the entire collected subsample or sample.

## 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Soil samples are collected using coring or scooping methods.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 Although this practice is intended for the collection of soil samples from bare areas in and around buildings, this practice may also be used to collect soil samples from other areas and environments.

5.2 This practice limits soil collection to approximately the top 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) of soil surface.

5.3 These samples are collected in a manner that will permit subsequent digestion and determination of lead using laboratory analysis techniques such as Test Method E1613.

## 6. Materials and Equipment

6.1 *Soil Coring Tool*, minimum diameter of 2.5 cm (1 in.), or as agreed upon by the parties requesting and collecting the samples, lead-free, for use in coring.

6.1.1 The coring tool shall be capable of being forced into hard ground without damage to a depth of at least 5 cm (2 in.) and have a mechanism to remove the soil sample from the tool to permit discarding all but the top 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) of the soil core (see Note 1).

NOTE 1—A number of devices can be used or modified for use as soil coring tools. For example: professional stainless steel coring tools

equipped with plastic liners, steel pipe, plastic pipe, or small sapling (tree) planters. Removal of the soil core is generally performed using a pair of plungers cut to fit the inside diameter of the coring device. One plunger is equipped with a stop that limits extension of the plunger to within 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) from the far end of the coring tool. It is used to remove all except the top 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) of the soil core from the coring tool. The other plunger (without a stop) is used to remove the remaining 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) of the soil core from the coring tool. The coring procedure in this practice assumes the coring tool has been equipped with these two types of plungers.

6.2 *Containers, Sealable, Rigid Walled*, for use in scooping or in serving as soil collection containers, 50 mL.

6.2.1 Screw-top plastic centrifuge tubes are an example of a suitable resealable rigid-walled container.

6.3 *Spoon*, lead-free, for use in scooping.

6.4 *Plastic Bags*, for use as soil collection containers; approximately 1 L or 4 L (1 qt or 1 gal) resealable plastic bags.

6.5 *Steel or Plastic Measuring Tape*.

6.6 *Plastic Gloves*, powderless.

6.6.1 Use of plastic gloves minimizes potential contamination of the collected soil from powders used in “powdered” gloves.

6.7 *Indelible (Permanent) Marking Pen*.

6.8 *Cloths*, clean for use in cleaning sampling tools.

6.9 *Water (Optional)*, for use in cleaning sampling tools.

6.10 *Trash Bags*.

## 7. Lead Contamination

7.1 Lead contamination problems during field sampling can be severe and can affect soil analysis results.

7.2 Minimize contamination through adherence to the following recommendations:

7.2.1 Change gloves frequently,

7.2.2 Collect each sample wearing a new pair of gloves,

7.2.3 Clean sampling equipment and measuring tapes frequently with cloths, clean water, or both, and

7.2.4 Do not handle soil collection containers until just prior to use.

## 8. Procedure for Core Sampling

8.1 *General Comments:*

8.1.1 Coring methods are effective for collection of samples from dense, hard, or sticky soils. Coring methods are not intended for collection of samples of loose, sandy soils (see [Note 2](#)).

**NOTE 2**—Coring methods are more effective than scooping methods for the collection of reproducible replicate samples. Coring methods have the advantage of sampling a reproducible cross-sectional area and depth.

8.2 The following procedure is for collection of samples of bare soils using a coring method at a given sample location within a sampling site.

8.2.1 Don a pair of clean, powderless plastic gloves (see [6.6.1](#)).

8.2.2 Clean the coring tool using cloths, clean water, or both, if needed.

8.2.3 Press or drive the coring tool into the bare soil to be sampled to a depth of approximately 5 cm (2 in.), rotate once

or twice to cut the core, and remove. Check that the core is intact. If the core is not intact, discard it and repeat beginning at [8.2.2](#).

8.2.4 Using a clean plunger equipped with a stop that limits extension of the plunger to within 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) from the far end of the coring tool, push the bottom approximately 3.5 cm (1.3 in.) section of the core out of the tool.

8.2.5 Using a clean plunger (without stop), push the remaining 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) section of the core sample into a soil collection container.

8.2.6 Collect a minimum of two more bare soil cores within a 0.3 m (1 ft) diameter circle around the location where the first core was taken using the same procedure ([8.2.5](#)). Place each of these cores into the same soil collection container used for the first core.

8.2.6.1 If the soil collection container used is a plastic bag, place the bag containing the sample in an additional bag, that is, double-bag the sample.

8.2.7 Label the soil collection container with sufficient information to uniquely identify the sample.

8.2.8 Discard the gloves in the trash bag.

8.2.9 Don a pair of clean, powderless plastic gloves. Clean the coring tool and plungers using cloths, clean water, or both, until visibly clean. Discard the cloths and gloves in a trash bag.

## 9. Procedures for Scoop Sampling

9.1 *General Comments:*

9.1.1 Scooping methods are effective for collection from semisoft, sticky, and loose sandy soils (see [Note 2](#)). Scooping methods are not intended for the collection of soils from hard soils.

9.1.2 The scooping methods described here may result in collection bias toward increased amounts of surface soil as opposed to subsurface soil because of the curvature of the collection tools.

9.2 The following procedures are for collection of soil samples using scoop sampling methods.

9.3 *Scoop Sampling Using a Rigid-Walled Container:*

9.3.1 Don a pair of clean, powderless, plastic gloves (see [6.6.1](#)).

9.3.2 Determine the proper burying depth of the container needed to collect approximately the top 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) of bare soil using a measuring tape (see [Note 3](#)).

**NOTE 3**—For example; if the container is about 3 cm in diameter, then the proper burying depth during scooping is to insert the container into the soil until the soil surface is about even with the center of the container.

9.3.3 Insert the open end of the container into the bare soil at the sampling location to the desired depth as determined in [9.3.2](#). Collect the soil into the container by pushing or pulling it through the soil surface while maintaining the burying depth in the soil. Move the container a distance of 10 to 20 cm (4 to 8 in.) across the soil surface to complete collection of the soil.

9.3.4 Remove the container from the ground and wipe off the outside of the container with a gloved finger. Place the sample into a soil collection container.

9.3.5 Collect a minimum of two more bare soil samples within a 0.3-m (1-ft) diameter circle around the location where the first scoop sample was taken using the same procedure (9.3.2 – 9.3.4). Place each of these scoop samples into the same soil collection container used for the first one.

9.3.5.1 If the soil collection container used is a plastic bag, place the bag containing the sample into an additional bag, that is, double-bag the sample.

9.3.6 Label the collection container with sufficient information to uniquely identify the sample.

9.3.7 Discard the gloves in a trash bag.

9.4 *Scoop Sampling Using a Spoon:*

9.4.1 Don a pair of clean, powderless, plastic gloves (see 6.6.1).

9.4.2 Using a measuring tape and a clean spoon, dig a small test hole adjacent to the sampling location to the depth of 1.5 cm (0.6 in.). Use this hole as a visual aid during soil collection to help limit collection to a depth of 1.5 cm (0.6 in.).

9.4.3 Clean the spoon using cloths, water, or both.

9.4.4 Collect soil into a soil collection container by scooping with the spoon down to the depth indicated by the test hole (see 9.4.2). Continue to collect soil until a cylindrical hole of approximately 5 cm (2 in.) diameter and 1.5 cm (0.6 in.) depth has been created.

9.4.5 Collect bare soil from a minimum of two more locations within a 0.3 m (1 ft) diameter circle around the first sample location using the same procedure (9.4.1 – 9.4.4). Place these additional scoop samples into the same soil collection container used for the first sample.

9.4.5.1 If the soil collection container used is a plastic bag, place the bag containing the sample into an additional bag, that is, double-bag the sample.

9.4.6 Label the soil collection container with sufficient information to uniquely identify the sample.

9.4.7 Discard the gloves in a trash bag.

9.4.8 Don a pair of clean, powderless, plastic gloves. Clean the spoon using cloths, clean water, or both. Discard the cloths and gloves in a trash bag.

## 10. Record Keeping

10.1 Records shall be maintained in accordance with Practice E2239, and shall include a copy of the field collection report and, if needed, chain of custody according to Guide D4840.

## 11. Report

11.1 Field data related to sample collection shall be documented in a sample log form or field notebook (see Note 4), or electronically according to Guide D7659.

NOTE 4—Field notebooks are useful for recording field data even when preprinted sample data forms are used.

11.2 At a minimum, the field collection report shall include the following information:

11.2.1 Project or client name, address, and city/state location,

11.2.2 General sampling site description,

11.2.3 The specific collection protocol used for each sample,

11.2.4 For each sample collected, an individual and unique sample identifier and date of collection, and

11.2.5 For each sample collected, the name of the person collecting the sample and the sampling location from which the sample was removed.

## 12. Keywords

12.1 coring; lead; sample collection; scooping; soil

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