

House dust and soil sampling instructions

Kit contents

Please handle the kit box carefully. This same box will be used to return samples.



Kit contents

- a. Large plastic snap-close bags (one labelled "HOUSEDUST SAMPLE") (2x).
- b. Medium-size plastic snap-close bag (1x).
- c. Small plastic snap-close bag (1x) labelled "SOIL SAMPLE".
- d. Soil Collection Form (1x).
- e. Face mask (1x).
- f. Sampling gloves (1x).
- g. ECLIPS sticker, to close box once filled with sampling bags.
- h. Pre-paid return envelope.

Before starting

Get ready to collect the samples as follows:

1. Fill-in the required information into the Soil Collection Form (d).
 2. Wear the disposable face mask (e) and gloves (f) during sampling.
 3. You will need a garden trowel, small spade, large spoon or similar digging or sweeping tool.
 4. Your dust sample will come from floor sweepings and/or your vacuum - make sure the vacuum bag or canister contains enough dust.
 5. The soil sample is taken from your garden or outdoor area. Try to avoid sampling outside in wet weather. Sample outside during dry weather if possible.
-

House dust sampling

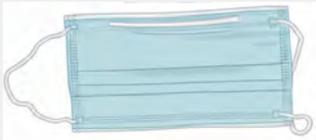
1



Label the sampling bag

Write the collection date on the white space of the 'HOUSEDUST SAMPLE' bag (a). Use the format DD/MM/YYYY to note the date you fill and seal the bag.

2



Prepare your materials

Put on the disposable face mask (e) and nitrile gloves (f) before opening the vacuum cleaner.

3



Transfer dust to the sample bag

Fill the labelled sampling bag (a) halfway with the contents of your vacuum cleaner bag or cylinder. Use the photo as guide.

4



Remove excess air and seal

Flatten the sample as much as possible and squeeze out any excess air. Seal the inner sample bag. If possible, do this outside to avoid a dusty mess. Vacuum the surrounding area afterwards.

5



Double-bag for protection

Fold the house dust sample bag in half and place it inside the second large plastic snap close bag (a). This prevents leakage should the inner bag come open. Seal the outer bag.

Outdoor soil sampling



Select sampling location

Choose a place where children play or you spend time outdoors. Areas of bare soil are easiest to sample from. If you don't have a garden, please collect the sweepings from your outdoor area.



Collect soil

Use your digging tool to collect soil from the top 3 to 5 cm depth (about 2- inches). Sample from 3 to 4 different spots about 50 cm to 1m apart (1.5 to 3 feet). Fill the 'SOIL SAMPLE' bag (c) halfway. Avoid twigs, stones, green plants and roots. Use this photo as a guide



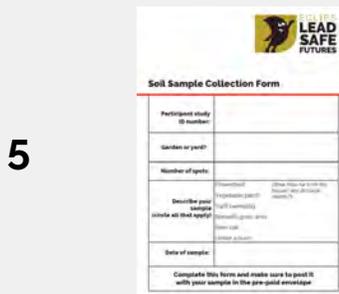
Remove air and seal

Flatten the sample and squeeze out excess air, the soil sample will spread out to fill the bag. Seal the soil sampling bag. Use photo as a guide.



Double-bag for protection

Place the sealed soil bag inside the medium plastic bag (b) and seal. Use photo as a guide.



Complete the soil sampling card

Write the collection date (DD/MM/YYYY) and describe a little bit about the sampling location.

Instructions for posting

1



Pack samples into the box

Place your house dust and soil sample bags, and completed soil sample card, into the same cardboard kit box we sent you. With the air removed and samples flattened, both should fit into the box. See photo for guide.

2



Seal the box

Close the box lid and fasten using the sticker (g). The box lid should be flat with no bulging- see correct and incorrect box packing photos. Correct packing ensures successful postal delivery.



3



Place the sealed box inside the prepaid return envelope (h).
Post the samples back to us as soon as possible.

We process samples monthly in batches. Results typically arrive within 3 months. If there's a longer delay, we'll email you

Thank you for helping us create lead-safe futures for children across the UK.

Any questions? Email: pb_aware@northumbria.ac.uk Website: www.lead safefutures.org