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Standard Practice for Field Collection of Soil Samples for Subsequent Lead Determination¹

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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

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 may not be suitable for collection of soil samples from areas that are paved or otherwise covered with grass, mulch, or the like. See Guide [E2115](#) or Practices [E2271/E2271M](#) or [E3074/E3074M](#).

1.3 This practice does not address the sampling design criteria (that is, a 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 standard. The values given in parentheses after SI units are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D1356](#) Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

[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

[E1726](#) Practice for Preparation of Soil Samples by Hotplate Digestion for Subsequent Lead Analysis

[E1979](#) Practice for Ultrasonic Extraction of Paint, Dust, Soil, and Air Samples for Subsequent Determination of Lead

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D22](#) on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D22.12](#) on Sampling and Analysis of Lead for Exposure and Risk Assessment.

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² 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.

- [E2115 Guide for Conducting Lead Hazard Assessments of Dwellings and of Other Child-Occupied Facilities](#)
- [E2239 Practice for Record Keeping and Record Preservation for Lead Hazard Activities](#)
- [E2271/E2271M Practice for Clearance Examinations Following Lead Hazard Reduction Activities in Multifamily Dwellings](#)
- [E3074/E3074M Practice for Clearance Examinations Following Lead Hazard Reduction Activities in Single Family Dwellings, in Individual Units of Multifamily Dwellings, and in Other Child-Occupied Facilities](#)
- [E3193 Test Method for Measurement of Lead \(Pb\) by Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry \(FAAS\)](#)
- [E3203 Test Method for Determination of Lead in Dried Paint, Soil, and Wipe Samples by Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectroscopy \(ICP-OES\)](#)
- ~~[E3074/E3074M Practice for Clearance Examinations Following Lead Hazard Reduction Activities in Single Family Dwellings, in Individual Units of Multifamily Dwellings, and in Other Child-Occupied Facilities](#)~~

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms not appearing here, see Terminologies [D1356](#) and [E1605](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *soil collection container, n*—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 using sample preparation techniques such as Practices [E1726](#) or [E1979](#) and determination of lead using laboratory analysis techniques such as Test Methods [E3193](#) or [E3203](#).

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~~ both. Discard the cloths in a trash bag.

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.