

Soil Testing Participant Information Sheet

Soilsafe Aotearoa lets you have the soil around your home tested for levels of lead and other metals, free of charge.

How do I collect my samples?

Go to soilsafe.auckland.ac.nz for the full instructions on sample collection. In brief, you will need to collect a cricket ball sized sample from each of the locations around your house (up to five). Ensure each sample is in a separate plastic resealable bag (double-bagged) clearly labelled with the sample code (you receive via email) and send them in to us. The sampling process should take about 1 hour of your time.

What next?

Within 8 weeks we will send you the results of the testing with the levels of lead and other metals in your soil, links to helpful resources about soils, and the government guidelines for metals in soils to help you understand the levels in your garden. Generalised results will also be mapped on www.mapmyenvironment.com.

Anonymity and confidentiality

Your generalised results are randomly moved each time the MapMyEnvironment website is loaded for your privacy. The map only shows large-scale patterns of metal levels in soils, it does not provide information about specific locations or addresses. Personal/identifying information about you as a participant in this research will remain confidential. Only a limited number of researchers/research assistants will have access to your responses, and your identity will remain separate from any data once recorded (your identifying information will be converted to numbers in a secure data file). Digital data will be stored on a password protected computer in a secure room at the University of Auckland. Electronic data will be backed up and stored on the University of Auckland server. Any information reported/published will be done in a way that will not identify participants as its source. Soilsafe Aotearoa intends to use synthesised data in research publications, theses, conference presentations and the development of future research projects. If you have any questions, please contact us at soilsafeaotearoa@auckland.ac.nz.

Consent Information

Please read the terms and conditions below before you submit your soil sample:

- I understand the nature of the research and why I am participating. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had them answered to my satisfaction.*
- I have, or have obtained, any necessary permission.*
- I acknowledge that the testing is part of a research study and not a professional testing service.*
- I acknowledge that the testing and/or results do not constitute either a preliminary site investigation nor a detailed site investigation as referred to in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011.*
- I confirm that the owner/occupier is not aware of the property being used for, having been used for, or likely to have been used for, one of the activities set out in the current edition of the Hazardous Activities and Industries List, Wellington, Ministry for the Environment – see <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/hazards/contaminated-land/is-land-contaminated/hazardous-activities-industries-list.pdf>*