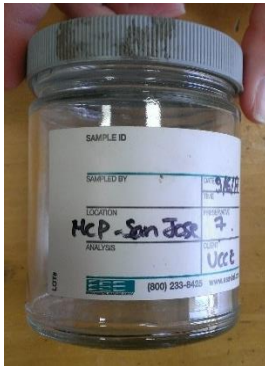
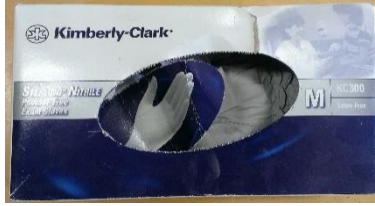


# Soil Sampling Checklist

## Material Checklist

- Disposable gloves
- Gardening gloves
- Bucket
- Shovel or spade or hand auger
- Sampling jars with label



- Measuring tape: for big sites, it can be handy to measure the location of the sampling points on the map and report the measure on-site using the measuring tape.

## Safety Checklist

Think about your safety when sampling soil that might be contaminated. Below are recommendations to help you making sure you safely take soil samples.

- Wear long pant and long sleeves to minimize skin contact with soil
- Wear disposable gloves each time you touch the soil
- Wear closed and sturdy shoes to protect your feet from contact with the soil and from hurting yourself with the shovel

# Soil Sampling Protocol

## **1. Clean equipment to avoid cross-contamination.**

The equipment used must be clean to prevent contaminating the samples. Clean your equipment each time you collect the subsamples that will be included in a **new composite** sample. Alternatively, start from the cleanest area to the suspected contaminated area.

## **2. Remove vegetation and debris.**

Remove the vegetation and debris or gravel that lay on the surface (1 to 2 inches).

## **3. Dig a hole using an auger, spade or shovel.**

If you have an auger, it is preferable to use it for collecting samples, but if you don't, you can use a spade or a shovel. If you are collecting samples at several depths, try to dig the soil until the bottom of the first layer to be sampled, without disrupting the second layer.

## **4. Empty the shovel in a clean bucket.**

Put the subsample in a clean bucket and mix by hand, wearing disposable gloves or with a tool. If you send the subsamples to the lab for compositing (mixing), fill the sampling jar from the lab with the soil of your bucket until container is full.

If you composite (mix) the subsamples on site, work with two buckets: use bucket 1 for the subsamples and bucket 2 for the composite sample. Put 2 cups of the mixed soil from bucket 1 into bucket 2. It is important that the same volume of each of the subsamples are used in the composite sample. Mix soil in bucket 1 before scooping out the soil that will go in bucket 2, and mix soil in bucket 2 after each time you add the subsample. Use a new pair of gloves each time you mix.

## **5. Try to obtain a fine sample.**

Try to remove the stones and break the coarse pieces of clay to obtain a fine sample. If there are too many gravels, you can screen the sample through a 2mm-mesh screen.

## **6. Fill the container.**

Fill the container provided by the lab up to top of the jar. Close and label the container with following information: name of composite sample, depth, date of sampling.

Mark on your map which subsamples are included in each composite samples.