

Testing Of Soils and Waste

Maintain Chain of Custody:

- 1) If you are concerned about anonymity or persons or location, don't use any identifying information on lab report, have a third party present testing request.
- 2) Lab should not know location or person gathering sample to maintain anonymity, rather use initials, personal codes or abbreviations. Create code to identify who collected the sample and where and when it was collected.
- 3) Whoever collects samples, must sign off in chain of custody to attorney or person who is registered as maintaining an account at laboratory.
- 4) One person who is sending sample must create an account with testing laboratory.
- 5) Keep all samples at 40 degrees in refrigerator, multiple wrappings. Lab will have protective mailers.

Where To Send Samples for Testing:

- 1) Need a laboratory that is certified in the state of the location of sampling.
- 2) Laboratory needs to be EPA certified.
- 3) a total metals analysis is referred to as the EPA 3050 or 3051 Method, and can cost anywhere from about \$20 to \$50 for one sample. This will measure lead, cadmium, nickel, zinc, copper etc.
- 4) State environmental bureaucracy can provide a list of EPA certified labs.

What to Test For:

- 1) Most prevalent bacterias; listeria, campro
- 2) Prions
- 3) Interior dust tested high in lead and arsenic
- 4) for soil with suspicion of being contaminated: a total metals analysis is usually done - this is referred to as the EPA 3050 or 3051 Method, and can cost anywhere from about \$20 to \$50 for one sample. This will measure lead, cadmium, nickel , zinc, copper etc.
- 5) If the soil is contaminated with pesticides or other synthetic chemicals that are known to being sludges - fire retardants, surfactants, PAHs, etc. - it is a much more expensive test. This requires that you know specifically what you are looking for to narrow down the possibilities. Few labs do these types of analyses so investigate what labs test for and their cost before sending samples.