

When the team is finished sampling, they will refill each of the holes left by the sampling with clean topsoil (see Figure 6).



Figure 6

The samples will be packed on ice in a cooler (see Figure 7). The team will take the samples back to the University of Michigan. From there, soil samples will be sent to a certified lab for analysis.



Figure 7

What happens to the results?

The results of your soil samples and the information you provide are very valuable to the study. They will be considered highly confidential and treated with great care. We will not reveal your identity. The soil samples will be stripped of all information that might link them back to you or your property. We will only release summaries of the data; no individual or property address will ever be identified.

You may choose to receive a report on your individual results. We will only send you a report on the levels of dioxins on your property if you choose to receive it.

Do I have to participate?

Participation is completely voluntary. However, once you are selected and agree to participate, we ask your help in completing the sample collection phase of the study. You will receive a payment of \$20 as a token of our appreciation for your participation in the soil sampling phase of the UMDES.

Where can I get more information?

We will hold public meetings to discuss the findings of this study with the affected communities. Study findings will be available on the study's Web site: <http://www.umdioxin.org>. You may also call our toll-free number for more information: **1-888-689-0006**.

Thank you for your help in completing this important study!

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SOIL SAMPLING



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UMDES Web site: <http://www.umdioxin.org>

Why is soil being sampled?

The University of Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study (UMDES) is designed to see if there is a relationship between levels of dioxins in soil and household dust and levels of dioxins people's bodies. It will also examine other factors – where people have lived, what they eat, their jobs and their hobbies – that may be associated with levels of dioxins in their bodies. In order to see that relationship, soil from about 700 properties in five Michigan counties will be sampled and analyzed for dioxins.

Isn't this just an issue for people in the Tittabawassee River flood plain?

The Tittabawassee River flood plain has been identified as an area with a high level of dioxins. But the issue is much broader. It could have far-reaching environmental and economic effects throughout the Saginaw Valley – and the state of Michigan.

It's also important to remember that a scientific study requires valid comparisons. The study includes people both inside and outside the flood plain – as well as from other areas in Michigan – to establish a point of reference.

Who will sample the soil?

After you agree to have your soil sampled, a member of the UMDES team will call to make an appointment to take samples. You may choose to be home when the soil samples are taken; the appointment will be made at your convenience. Samples can also be taken when you are not at home. It is completely up to you.

On your appointment date, two to three professionally trained members of the UMDES soil sampling team will arrive at your house. Each member of the team is required to wear a picture identification badge when making visits to homes. Our team members will be glad to comply with your request to check their badges. If you are at all uncertain about the identities of the sampling team members that contact you, please feel free to call our toll-free number at: 1-888-689-0006.

What will the soil samplers do?

Team members will take three soil samples from each of several locations on your property, as shown in Figure 1:

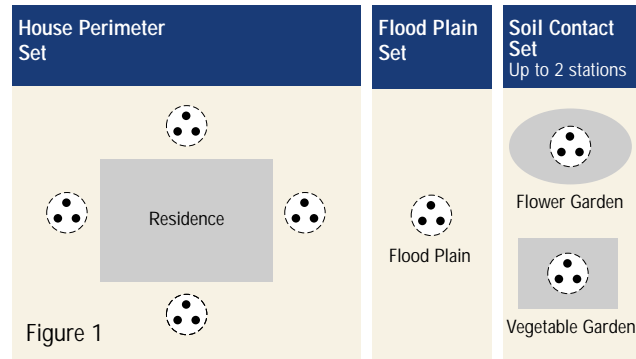
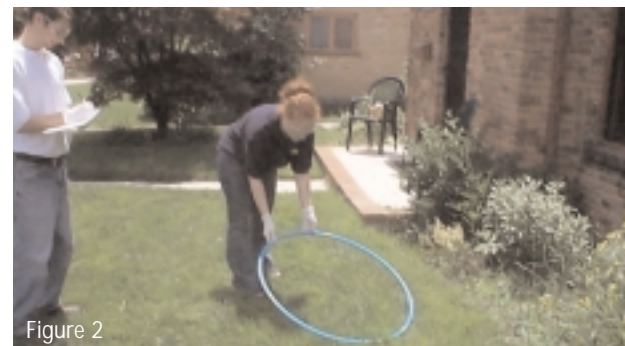


Figure 1

- Four sets of samples will be taken from the house perimeter. This will mean one set of samples will be taken from an area near each side of your home.
- If any part of your property is located in the Tittabawassee River flood plain, a separate set of three samples will be taken from that area.
- If you have a flower or a vegetable garden, or another area in which you regularly come in close contact with soil, another set of samples will be taken from each of those locations.
- Altogether, the team will take samples from at least four separate locations, but no more than seven locations.

Team members will place a ring on the ground in each area where samples will be taken (see Figure 2).



The team will then use a slide hammer to drive a tube-like device called a corer into the soil (see Figure 3).



This corer will allow the team to pull out a “core,” a tube-shaped section of soil about 2 inches across and 8 inches long (see Figure 4). A set of three of these samples will be taken from each ring location.



Depending on the location, the team may need to clip some of the grass or ground cover in the sampling area (see Figure 5).

