



**USC**

**USC Dornsife**

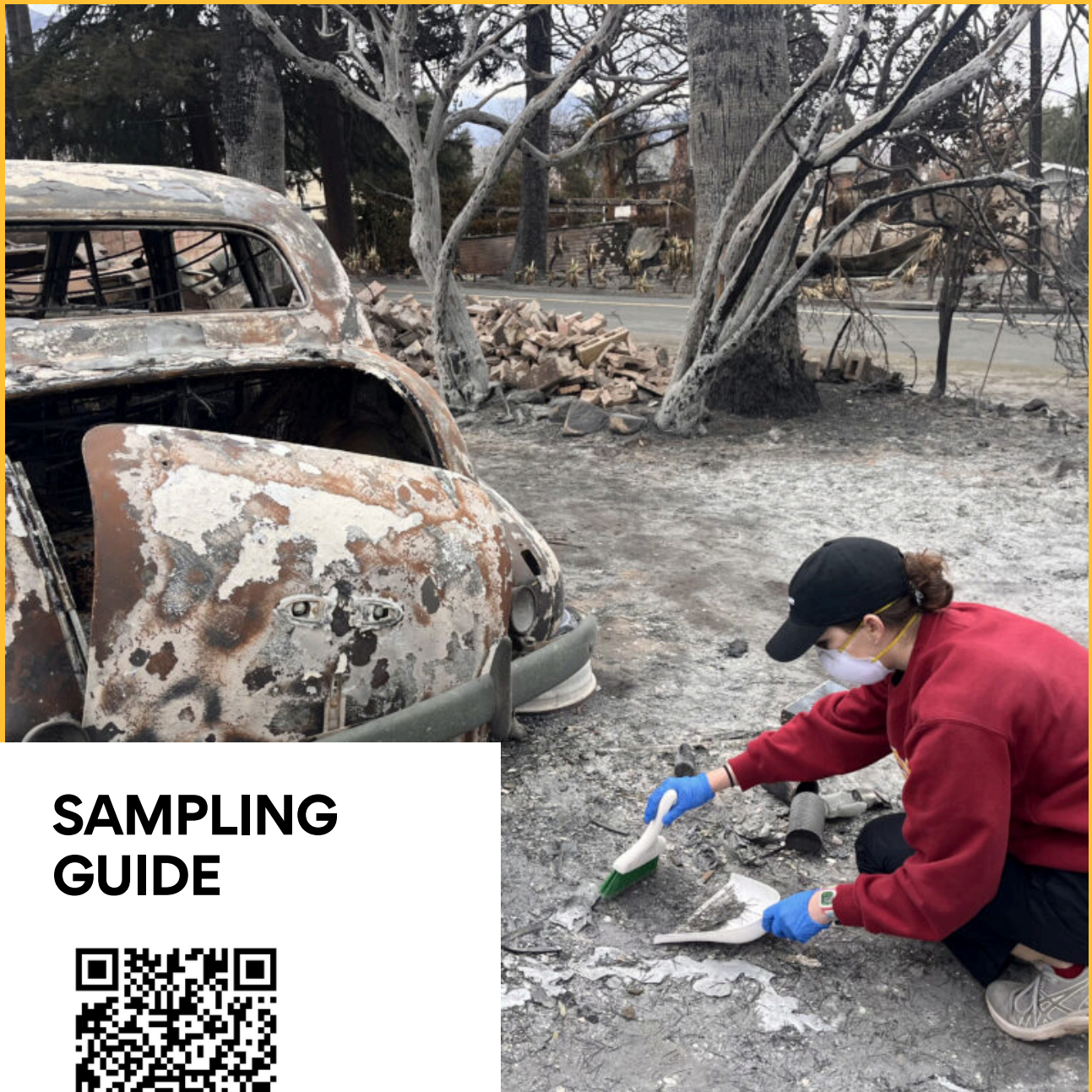
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College of Letters, Arts and Sciences



**PUBLIC EXCHANGE™**

# CLEAN

## CONTAMINANT LEVEL EVALUATION & ANALYSIS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS



### SAMPLING GUIDE



[publicexchange.usc.edu](http://publicexchange.usc.edu)

# ABOUT

Thank you for your interest in participating in CLEAN, a rapid response soil testing program from the USC [Department of Earth Sciences](#) and [Public Exchange](#). The CLEAN project was developed by a group of USC faculty, students, and staff, with the aim of applying scientific research tools to assist local communities impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires.

In the interest of testing soil samples rapidly and providing the public with information as soon as possible, this program is currently only testing soils for lead contamination. [Any amount of lead is harmful to health](#), but USC's instrumentation can quickly evaluate lead levels and assess what soil poses a threat. We may expand our testing capabilities in the future, but do not have the ability to provide testing for other contaminants at this time.

Participating in this program will provide key information regarding potential exposure to a dangerous heavy metal to you and your community. It is also an opportunity to participate in the scientific process and could inform future publications and decision-making (see: [USC study on lead in children's teeth](#)).

## **Disclaimers & Limitation of Liability**

By participating in this project, you acknowledge that the data provided about your samples is not intended to be used for health, legal, or regulatory decisions. For health decisions, please consult your doctor or healthcare professional for specific medical advice relevant to you and your family.

The results of the lead testing to be performed on your sample are provided for informational purposes only. This testing should not be considered a substitute for testing conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency or a certified environmental cleanup provider. USC makes no representations and warranties of any kind with respect to the information provided through this program, and USC hereby disclaims any and all such warranties with respect to your use of these analytical results, express or implied.

By submitting a sample for testing, you (and your family, heirs, assignees, guardians, and legal representatives), hereby agree to totally and unconditionally waive, release and forever discharge, individually and collectively, USC, its affiliates, and their respective trustees, officers, employees, students, and representatives (collectively, "USC Releasees") from and against any and all claims, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, arising out of your use of the sample testing results. And you agree not to assert, initiate or prosecute any lawsuit, action or proceeding of any kind whatsoever, by way of action, defense, set-off, cross-complaint or counterclaim against the USC Releasees based upon, arising out of, or in connection with any such claim that you have released and discharged.

By submitting a sample for testing, you acknowledge and do hereby intentionally relinquish the protections of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code (and similar provisions of other jurisdictions) which provides as follows: "A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party."

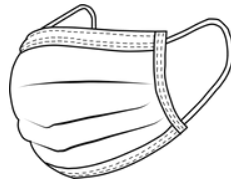
# SAMPLE COLLECTING

1

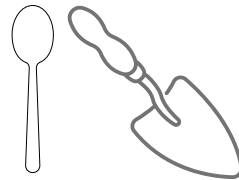
## AQUIRE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT



**Latex Gloves**



**N95 or KN95 mask**



**Plastic spoon or  
hand shovel**



**2 sandwich or quart  
sized ziploc bags**



**Permanent marker  
(e.g., Sharpie)**



**Masking tape  
(bag label)**

**Any other safety precautions (eye protection, booties, etc.) as  
required to reenter your property**

# SAMPLE COLLECTING

## 2 DETERMINE YOUR LOCATION

We ask that you provide specific location information by providing either GPS coordinates or the address where samples were collected.

**Note:** If you do provide location information, this data may be used in further scientific studies which explore the spatial distribution of lead around the Los Angeles region. Your name and all identifying information will **not** be associated with your sample in any public materials, including the web map where you can access your results.

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### To Provide Latitude/Longitude (GPS) Location

To determine your sample's GPS location, you can use either Google Maps or Apple Maps. Here are instructions on how to obtain your location:

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- On Apple Maps, click your own location (blue dot) and it will show details of your location. Scroll down on the details to see an accurate latitude (first number, followed by N) and longitude (second number, followed by W). The longitude value is negative for locations in the western hemisphere, please input it as a negative value. YouTube instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKdNEozcr-k>
- On Google Maps, press and hold your location (blue dot) until a red pin shows up. Scroll down on the details of the dropped pin until you see coordinates. They are in the form (Latitude, Longitude). The latitude should be a positive number, the longitude is a negative number. YouTube instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMp4ynDrVjs>

**Note:** Please only provide numbers in the LAT and LON (i.e., **no** N or W). Your location should read something like 34.XXXX, -118.XXXX

# SAMPLE COLLECTING

## 3 **AQUIRE YOUR UNIQUE SAMPLE ID**

Go to [bit.ly/CLEANUSC](https://bit.ly/CLEANUSC) and fill out the survey to receive a unique sample ID

### **What is a sample ID?**

A sample ID will help the CLEAN research team keep track of your sample and communicate your results back to you. After analysis, each Sample ID number and the associated lead concentration will be published on the soil lead testing webpage. Providing your email address on the survey guarantees that your Sample ID will be emailed to you after you submit the survey. See below for an example Sample ID.

Here is your Sample ID number to be used to label your sample: **858999161**

## 4 **LABEL YOUR ZIPLOC BAGS WITH YOUR UNIQUE SAMPLE ID**

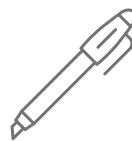
Label **both** of your two ziploc bags with that Sample ID using a marker (either directly or on masking tape placed on the bag).



**2 sandwich or quart sized ziploc bags**



**Masking tape (bag label)**



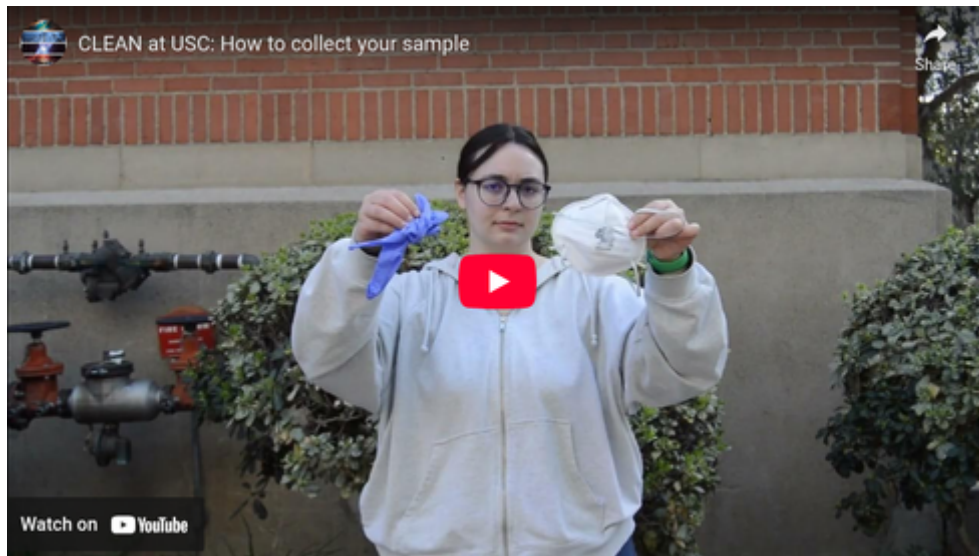
**Permanent marker (e.g., Sharpie)**



# SAMPLE COLLECTING

## 5 COLLECT YOUR SAMPLE

Watch Instruction Video



Please watch this YouTube video for instructions on how to collect your sample: <https://youtu.be/q9BmBNytaWo>

**Please do not submit more than a ¼ cup of soil.**

# SAMPLE COLLECTING

## 5 COLLECT YOUR SAMPLE

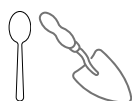
### 1. Gather materials



Latex Gloves



N95 or KN95 mask



Plastic spoon or  
hand shovel



2 plastic bags WITH  
Unique ID labeled

### 2. Put on gloves, mask, and any other personal protective equipment.



Latex Gloves



N95 or KN95 mask

3. Use a spoon, shovel, or another digging tool to collect approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup (roughly the size of a large egg) of soil in ONE of the labeled ziploc bags. Try to avoid large rocks or sticks.



Plastic spoon or  
hand shovel



1 plastic bags WITH  
Unique ID labeled

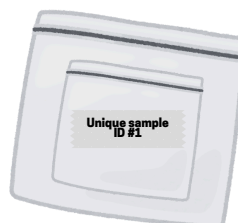
### 4. Carefully and completely seal the sample bag.



### 5. Place your sample bag into a second bag for further spill protection.



You may collect a maximum of 2 samples. For each sample you collect, you must submit a separate survey, and label each sample with its own unique sample ID.





# SAMPLE COLLECTING

## 6 SUBMIT YOUR SAMPLE

Samples can be submitted at:

### Dropoff Locations

We have locations near the Palisades Fire and Eaton Fire. To see latest dropoff locations go to our website ([publicexchange.usc.edu](https://publicexchange.usc.edu))



**By Mail** (You must pay for your own postage)

CLEAN c/o Professor Seth John

3651 Trousdale Parkway

USC ZHS 117B

Los Angeles, CA 90089

**Please only submit two samples per person at this time**