

Dirty Hands Test

1. Can you roll the soil into a good ball?	Yes	→	Go to Q2
	Only with care	→	LOAMY SOIL
2. What happens when you squeeze the ball between your finger and thumb?	It flattens but it does not crack	→	Go to Q3
	It breaks up	→	SANDY LOAM
3. Wet it a little. Can you roll it into a sausage about 5mm thick?	Yes	→	Go to Q4
	No	→	LOAMY SAND
4. Wet it a little more. Can you now roll it into a thread about 2mm thick?	Yes	→	Go to Q5
	No	→	SANDY LOAM
5. Can you bend it into a horseshoe shape without it cracking?	Yes	→	Go to Q7
	No	→	Go to Q6
6. Wet the soil again and then rub it between your thumb and forefinger. What does it feel like?	Smooth and pasty	→	SILT LOAM
	Rough and gritty	→	SANDY SILT LOAM
7. Can you make a small ring by joining the two ends together without it cracking?	Yes	→	Go to Q9
	No	→	Go to Q8
8. Re-wet it and rub it between your thumb and forefinger. How does it feel?	Very gritty	→	SANDY CLAY LOAM
	Fairly rough	→	CLAY LOAM
	Heavy and doughy	→	SILT CLAY LOAM
9. Roll it again but do not wet it. Try and polish the surface with your thumb.	Smooth polish	→	Go to Q10
	Yes, but particles visible	→	SANDY CLAY
	No	→	Go to Q8
10. Wet the soil again and try to get it to stick your fingers together.	Sticks firmly	→	CLAY
	Sticks not so firmly	→	SILTY CLAY