

Clean Soil - Discussion Summary

Clean soil is referenced in NR 500 and NR 135 but no definition of clean soil is provided in the Administrative code. This fact sheet provides criteria for determining if soil is clean.

Soil that is clean can be used with without restriction. A waste determination should be made to access if laboratory analysis is required for complete determination. If laboratory analysis is completed, the results can be used to confirm the soil meets requirements to be classified as clean soil.

Clean soil:

- Does not contain detectable concentrations of compounds that are not naturally occurring,
- contains naturally occurring compounds at concentrations that are at or below background threshold values (BTVs) determined for Wisconsin, and
- contains PAHs, which may or may not be naturally occurring, at concentrations below residual contaminant levels (RCLs) as calculated using default parameters as specified in Wisconsin administrative code NR 720 and guidance document RR 890.

More specifically,

- VOCs are not present at concentrations that exceed laboratory Method Detection Limits (MDLs)
- Metals are not present at concentrations that exceed BTVs with the exception of;
 - Arsenic, may require additional assessment if above direct contact levels (.613 mg/kg, residential and 2.39 mg/kg, industrial, both lower than the BTV of 8 mg/Kg)
 - Lead, may require additional assessment if above groundwater standard (28 mg/Kg, lower than the BTV of 50 mg/kg)
- PAHs are not present at concentrations that exceed residential direct contact RCLs or groundwater RCLs.
- PCBs are not present at concentrations that exceed laboratory MDLs
- Other non-naturally occurring parameters are not present at concentrations that exceed laboratory MDLs

Preferred MDLs determined through a survey of several WI Certified labs are included as Attachment A.