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## A. General Description

Use this procedure to sample soils for base courses.

To sample for soil bases, you can take samples from two areas:

- Pit Sampling
- Stockpile Sampling

### 1. Pit Sampling

- Sample the pits on a grid pattern with the grid interval and number of samples being a function of the type of material and the uniformity of the deposit.
  - When the material is uniform, use intervals of 100 ft (30 m) for base pits.
  - When the deposit is not uniform, adjust the interval so you obtain representative samples from each type of material.
- Submit the grid samples to either the Branch Laboratory or [Office of Materials and Research](#).
- When the pit is used for soil-cement material or soil mortar for graded aggregate, submit additional samples representative of the various types of materials to the [Office of Materials and Research](#) for preliminary design studies.
- When several strata of materials are in the pit, take composite samples from all layers for the design samples.
- When samples for official design studies are obtained from a pit, use the grid pattern to determine the most representative sample locations.

### 2. Stockpile Sampling

The ideal sampling situation for a stockpile is while it is being built. If you cannot sample the stockpile while it is being built:

- Visually inspect the entire stockpile to determine whether the material is uniformly mixed. You may use a front-end loader or backhoe to determine how uniform the material is mixed.
- If you observe that the stockpile shows considerable stratification, mix the stockpile before sampling or using the material.
- Take several samples at intervals around the perimeter of the stockpile and across the top surface. Take samples from all variations of materials in the pile.