

Step-by-Step instructions for using the SHREC Lab

1. **Contact us:** While the lab is getting established, please reach out to shrec@uvm.edu or 802-656-0423 with the following information before submitting a sample:

- Your name
- County and state where the samples will be collected
- Approximate number of samples and the tests of interest

2. **Collect your samples:** After receiving a confirmation email from the SHREC Lab, print the [submission form](#) and collect your samples using the [Soil Health Sampling Guide](#). Include a completed version of the submission form with your samples when you drop them off and email a copy of the form to shrec@uvm.edu.

- Samples should be submitted fresh (not air-dried) as soon as possible after sampling, preferably within two days of collection. Keep the samples cool during this time with ice packs or in a fridge (Do not freeze the samples).

3. **Submitting your samples:**

- **Option 1) Drop-off:** Please email shrec@uvm.edu or call 802-656-0423 to coordinate an in-person drop-off appointment. You must make an appointment to drop-off your samples at this time.

- Bring samples to:

- UVM Campus, **Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Drive**, Burlington, VT 05405, Room 262 (the same location as the Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab (AETL)).
- Park in one of the PayMobile lots near Jeffords Hall (Figure 1).
- The lab is on the second floor on the north side of the building. Look for a cooler with a “SHREC” sign on it.



Figure 1. Teal color indicates PayMobile lots near Jeffords Hall.

- **Option 2) Mail:** If dropping samples off is not an option, we can accept samples by mail. Samples must be shipped in two-day mail. Do not ship on Fridays. Keep cool until mailing. Please include a sample submission form with your samples. Do not ship samples without first communicating with the lab.

- Address:

SHREC Lab

Jeffords Hall

63 Carrigan Drive

Burlington, VT 05405

4. **Turnaround time:** Expect a four- to six-week process time.

5. **Payment:** When results are ready, we will send you a link to pay online. We prefer credit card payments but the link will also provide instructions for paying with a check. We also accept internal UVM payments (chartstrings).

Step-by-Step instructions for using the SHREC Lab (cont.)

Please read before submitting a soil health sample:

- We cannot currently accept soils from the USDA-APHIS regulated states/counties highlighted on the map in this link: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/domestic-soil-quarantine-map>
- At this time, samples submitted to SHREC will be used to inform interpretation of measurements based on management practices, geography, and soil type. SHREC aims to have a Vermont-specific scoring system (high, intermediate, and low values) in place as soon as an adequate quantity of representative soils have been processed. Until we have this database for comparison purposes, the best way to help SHREC interpret your samples is to submit samples for comparison; learn more in this “Sample planning guide” (coming soon).
- Data Storage & Privacy: We take farmer confidentiality very seriously. In creating a regional database, we will assign your sample a unique ID and use this ID to keep your personal information anonymous. Data will be aggregated and reported such that it mitigates personal identification of growers. Data from farms in the region will be used to characterize trends in soil health and to interpret data.
- Though SHREC works closely with [UVM's Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab](#), we cannot currently share samples. If you are interested in information from both labs, please provide two separate samples as they will be handled differently.
- We do not offer testing for compost, plant tissue (foliar), or greenhouse media samples. [The University of Maine Analytical Lab and Maine Soil Testing Service](#) provides these tests. Visit their website for price lists and sample submission forms.