



City of Fort Collins **Soil Amendment** Requirements

For more information, codes and forms, visit fcgov.com/soil-amendment.

Contact

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Aids and services available for persons with disabilities. 10/16





Soil Amendment Requirements

City of Fort Collins' *Ordinance 084, 2003* requires the addition of a soil amendment in areas that are cleared and planned to hold plants and grass.

A soil amendment is any material that is added to the soil to improve its physical properties. The soil amendment can be compost, peat, aged manure or other material as approved.

Certification

Complete a *Soil Amendment Certificate* and return to Building Services, 281 N. College Ave. Include a receipt showing the amount and type of soil amendment or a lab result showing proof that the soil added meets the topsoil requirements (see table at right).

If unfavorable conditions, such as excessive rain or snow, prevent soil amendment application, a *Temporary Soil Amendment Waiver* can be obtained online.

Forms are available at fcgov.com/soil-amendment.

Soil Amendment Benefits

- reduces compaction
- increases water capacity
- conserves irrigation water
- reduces watering frequency
- promotes deeper root growth

Steps to Amend the Soil

- loosen the top 8 inches
- till or mix 3 cubic yards of amendment per 1,000 square feet into the top 6 inches of soil or
- add 4 inches of topsoil that meets the following requirements

Topsoil Requirements	
Sand	20 – 75%
Silt	5 – 60%
Clay	5 – 30%
Organic material	5% or more
pH	6.0 – 8.0

Topsoil must be free from noxious weeds, roots, salts, clay lumps and any non-soil materials (rocks, concrete, brick chips, building materials, foreign matter and any chemical, biological or radiological contaminants).

Exact language can be found in Municipal Code *Secs. 12-130—12-132* and *Land Use Code 3.8.21*.