

# Tool: Soil Types – Canada Soil Types United States

The type of soil determines the strength and stability of trench walls. In most Canadian Provinces, soil types fall into four categories.

<b>Canadian Soil Classifications</b>	
Type	Description
Type 1	This type of soil is so hard that it is close to rock.
Type 2	Easily excavated with backhoe, remains intact for short time only – i.e. silty clay
Type 3	Previously excavated, flows through fingers – i.e. sand
Type 4	High moisture content, sensitive to vibration – i.e. quicksand, clay

In the U.S. there are also four types of soil, but the naming convention is different.

<b>U.S. Soil Classifications</b>	
Type	Description
Stable Rock	Natural solid mineral matter that can be excavated with vertical sides and remain intact while exposed.
Type A	Cohesive soils. i.e. clay, silty clay, sandy clay, clay loam
Type B	Cohesive soils but less than Type A – i.e. angular gravel; silt/silt loam; previously excavated
Type C	Cohesive soils but less than Type A/B – i.e. gravel, sand and loamy sand, submerged soil, soil w/ freely seeping water, unstable submerged rock

