

What are some properties of soil?

There are many types of soil. Each type of soil has its own properties. One soil property is color. Another is texture. Soil texture is the size of the pieces of soil.

Pore Spaces

The spaces between pieces of soil are called **pore spaces**. The pore spaces in soil act like filters. They remove some things from water as the water moves through. This keeps the water clean.

Permeability

The sizes and numbers of pore spaces affect a soil's **permeability** (pur•mee•uh•BIL•i•tee). Permeability describes how fast water goes through a material. Sandy soil has high permeability. Its particles are packed loosely together. They hold little water.



▲ Sandy soil has a coarse texture.



▲ Silty soil has a medium texture.



▲ Clay soil has a fine texture.

Permeability of Soils

Read a Photo

Which soil has the lower permeability—fine soil or coarse soil?

