

## Soil Analysis:

It can truly be said that this is the part of Forensic Science where you get "dig up some dirt" on people. Soil lodged in the soles of someone's shoes can be studied by examining its *colour, the types of rocks found, decaying plant and animal material it contains and its chemical make-up*. It is important to note that soil analysis is not always conclusive evidence since it varies so much, even within the same location. The following are things that can be determined through the analysis of soil at a crime scene.

1. Soil that has decaying plant or animal matter in it is called *humus*.
2. Traces of minerals, ore and other substances can be found in soil samples. This can be used to determine where the soil sample came from, if lifted from a footprint or tire track at a crime scene.
3. Soil type can be determined (Ex. clay, humus).

By studying soil colour, for instance, we can infer a great deal about the type of soil that it is.

### Soil Colour:

white or light grey  
black, dark brown or dark grey  
red, brown, yellow

### Substances in the Soil:

silica in the soil  
humus (decaying plants and animals)  
iron compounds