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* SOIL CLASSIFICATION CHART

AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

SAFE BEARING CAPACITY OF SOILS *

Type of Soil	lbs /ft ²
Soil ledge of hard rock, such as granite, trap, etc	50,000 — 200,000
Sound shale and other medium rock requiring blasting for removal	20,000 — 30,000
Hard pan, cemented sand and gravel difficult to remove by picking	16,000 — 20,000
Soft rock, disintegrated; in natural ledge difficult to remove by picking.....	10,000 — 20,000
Compact sand and gravel requiring picking for removal	8,000 — 12,000
Hard clay requiring picking for removal	8,000 — 10,000
Gravel, coarse sand in natural thick beds	8,000 — 10,000
Loose, medium, and coarse sand, fine compact sand	3,000 — 8,000
Medium clay, stiff but capable of being spaded	4,000 — 8,000
Fine loose sand	2,000 — 4,000
Soft clay	2,000

* Values taken from Mark's Mechanical Engineer's Handbook, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, Sixth Edition (1958).