

# WHAT IS BS3882:2015?

BS3882:2015 is the UK quality standard for topsoil that is moved or traded, covering both natural and manufactured material. It confirms that topsoil has been correctly sampled, tested thoroughly, and meets strict quality controls.

In short, BS3882:2015 gives you confidence that the topsoil you are using is safe, reliable and fit for purpose.

## What does BS3882:2015 guarantee?

Topsoil certified to BS3882:2015 must meet high standards at every stage, including:

- 1. Approved composition** The topsoil must meet defined requirements for texture, organic matter content, pH, and nutrient levels, ensuring it is suitable for growing and landscaping.
- 2. Controlled grading** Topsoil is classified into two grades – Multipurpose (suitable for the majority of landscaping and gardening projects) and Specific Purpose (for specialist applications such as acidic, calcareous or low fertility soils).
- 3. Regular independent testing** BS3882:2015 topsoil is routinely tested to confirm it:
  - Is free from harmful contaminants such as plastics, glass and stones
  - Complies with UK limits for heavy metals
  - Meets defined limits for electrical conductivity and nutrient levels
  - Has appropriate pH levels for the intended use
- 4. Proper sampling and traceability** Topsoil must be sampled following strict protocols before stripping or supply, ensuring every batch can be verified and traced back through the production process.

## **Why is BS3882:2015 important?**

- It is recognised across the UK by landscapers, contractors, landscape architects and local authorities
- It ensures topsoil is fit for purpose and consistent in quality
- It helps protect plants, soil health and the wider environment
- It is often required by planning regulations on new developments

## **What does this mean for you?**

Using BS3882:2015 certified topsoil means you can be confident that the product:

- Is safe to use in gardens, landscaping and construction projects
- Has been independently assessed against nationally recognised standards
- Supports responsible and sustainable land management practices

## **In summary**

BS3882:2015 certification is your assurance that the topsoil you're using meets strict UK standards for quality, safety and environmental responsibility.