



Figure 3.2 Typical particle size distribution of different soils. Solid lines represent particle distribution from sieves; dashed lines represent particle distribution by hydrometer.

Table 3.2 Designation of soil particles sizes (According to ASTM).

Broad group	Soil name	Particle sizes	
		ASTM sieve size	Particle size (mm)
Coarse-grained	Boulder	-	> 300
	Cobble	-	75 to 300
	Coarse gravel	¾" to 3"	19 to 75
	Fine gravel	> #4 to ¾"	4.75 to 19
	Coarse sand	#10 to #4	2.0 to 4.75 ¹
	Medium sand	#40 to #10	0.42 to 2.0
	Fine sand	#200 to #40	0.075 to 0.42 ²
Fine-grained	Silt and clay "sizes"	< #200	< 0.075

Notes: 1. Some jurisdictions (for example, Canada) specify gravels particles greater than 2.0 mm diameter. 2. Particles smaller than fine sand size cannot be discerned by an unaided eye from 200 mm.