



Soil for Covering a Tortoise Burrow

The soil should not have been washed. We want the very fine particles (called clay) to remain. It is the clay content that holds the rainwater rather than letting it run through as would happen with beach sand or gravel. Burrow construction requires soils that crumble easily during digging and is firm enough to resist collapse (Meyer 2008).

Do not use soil that contains organic matter. Please do not consider getting soil from a vacant lot. Chances are that the soil type would not be appropriate, and you would need to do lots of sifting to remove rocks and junk.

Several sand and gravel companies around the Las Vegas valley offer similar types of soil.

Amounts Needed:

- Underground Burrow: 1 ½ tons to finish the cover, or more if you removed a lot of rocks
- Compact Aboveground Burrow: 3 ½ tons
- Large Aboveground Burrow: at least 4-5 tons
- Baby Enclosure, 5'x 20': at least 3 tons. Use especially for the burrows. Mix with organic matter only where the plants will be growing.