
Test Procedure for**DETERMINING MOISTURE CONTENT OF BITUMINOUS MIXTURES****TxDOT Designation: Tex-212-F****Effective Date: April 2025**

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 Use this test method to determine the moisture content of any type of bituminous paving mixtures by direct measurement and to determine the moisture in aggregates for bituminous mixtures and in completed bituminous mixtures that have no significant amounts of hydrocarbon volatiles.
 - 1.1.1 Use Part I to determine the moisture content of any type of bituminous paving mixtures by direct measurement.
 - 1.1.2 Use Part II to determine the moisture (free and absorbed) in aggregates for bituminous mixtures and in completed bituminous mixtures that have no significant amounts of hydrocarbon volatiles.
- 1.2 The values given in parentheses (if provided) are not standard and may not be exact mathematical conversions. Use each system of units separately. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the standard.

PART I—MOISTURE CONTENT BY DISTILLATION

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 Use this procedure to determine the moisture content of any type of bituminous paving mixtures by direct measurement.

3. APPARATUS

- 3.1 *Metal still*, consisting of a vertical cylindrical container, approximately 5 in. (127 mm) in diameter and 6 in. (152 mm) deep, with removable lid, heavy fiber gasket or O-ring, and a clamping system. There should be two holes in the lid, each approximately 1 in. (25 mm) in diameter, to provide for entrance of the water trap-condenser assembly and a safety valve.
- 3.2 *Moisture trap*, of 25 mL capacity, graduated in 0.1-mL divisions and equipped with cork stoppers.
- 3.3 *Condenser*, Liebig glass-tube type, with a condenser jacket approximately 16 in. (400 mm) long.
- 3.4 *System of tubing*, for passing water continuously through condenser.
- 3.5 *Loose, clean cotton*, for plugging the top of the condenser.
- 3.6 *Balance*, Class G2 in accordance with [Tex-901-K](#).

- 3.7 Hot plate or other satisfactory heating device.
- 3.8 Ring stand, with base and clamp.
- 3.9 Pipette, with 1–10 mL capacity.
- 3.10 Bucket, 1 gal. (4 L), with airtight lid or plastic bag.

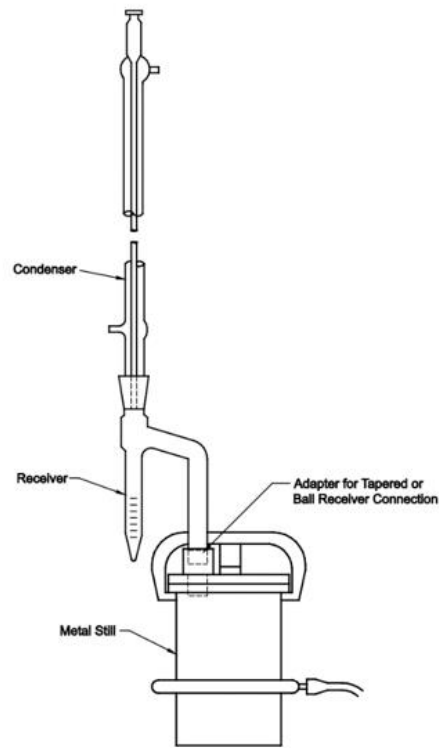


Figure 1—Typical Assembly for Determining Moisture Content by Distillation

4. MATERIALS

- 4.1 Water-free gasoline.

5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Obtain a representative sample of the bituminous mixture in accordance with [Tex-222-F](#). Thoroughly mix, breaking up large lumps.
- 5.2 Reduce the mixture to laboratory test size by quartering, or by thoroughly blending the material and taking small portions from several places in the pan.
Note 1—Keep samples in moisture-tight containers from the time of sampling to the time of testing.
- 5.3 Weigh a 500–600 g sample and record to the nearest 0.1 g as X under Section 6.

- 5.4 Immediately pour the weighed sample into the still.
- 5.5 Add gasoline until the sample is covered to a depth of about 1 in. (25 mm).
- 5.6 Place gasket or O-ring on rim of still and firmly fasten the lid with the clamping system.
- 5.7 Insert the moisture trap through a rubber stopper in the still lid, making sure the tip extends away from the source of heat, and assemble the condenser.
- 5.8 Place a cork or rubber stopper in the other hole as a safety valve. Minimize evaporation loss by inserting a loose cotton plug in the top of the glass condenser. Inspect all stoppers regularly to be certain they do not leak.
- 5.9 Circulate plenty of cool water continuously through the condenser. Apply heat at such rate that refluxing will start within 20 min. after the heat has been applied and solvent will drip from the condenser at a rate of 60–120 drops per minute.
- 5.10 Continue distillation until three consecutive readings of the trap at 15-min. intervals show no increase in the condensed water.
- 5.11 If the volume of moisture exceeds the capacity of the trap, stop the distillation, allow the still and trap to cool, record meniscus reading and withdraw 10–20 mL of water from the bottom of the trap with pipette. Record the volume of water removed.
- 5.12 Cool the moisture trap and contents to room temperature.
- 5.13 Rinse the condenser tube with gasoline to remove any trace of moisture and read the meniscus between the gasoline and water.
- 5.14 The meniscus value, in addition to any water withdrawn from the trap, is the volume of moisture removed from the bituminous mixture.
- 5.15 Record the total volume of moisture as V (under Section 6), which is also the weight of the moisture, since the assumption is made that 1 mL of water weighs 1 g at room temperature.

6. CALCULATIONS

- 6.1 Calculate percent by weight of moisture in the mixture:

$$\text{Percent Moisture} = \frac{100V}{X}$$

Where:

X = Weight of total sample, g

V = Volume of moisture, mL.

- 6.2 Report moisture content test results to the nearest 0.1%.

7. PRECAUTIONS

- 7.1 To maintain a safe working condition:

- 7.1.1 Use care in handling and heating the solvent and avoid inhaling fumes.
- 7.1.2 Fumes should not escape the still. Escaping fumes indicate a possible fire hazard.
- 7.1.3 Verify that all connections and the lid on the still are fastened tightly.

PART II—MOISTURE CONTENT BY OVEN DRYING

8. SCOPE

- 8.1 Use this procedure to determine the moisture in aggregates for bituminous mixtures and in completed bituminous mixtures that have no significant amounts of hydrocarbon volatiles.

9. APPARATUS

- 9.1 *Balance*, Class G2 in accordance with [Tex-901-K](#).
- 9.2 *Drying oven*, capable of attaining a temperature of 200°F (93°C), or suitable microwave oven.
- 9.3 *Pans*, suitable for drying aggregates.

10. PROCEDURE

- 10.1 Obtain a representative sample of the bituminous mixture in accordance with [Tex-222-F](#).
- 10.2 Thoroughly mix, breaking up large lumps, and reduce to laboratory test size by quartering the material, or by thoroughly blending the material and taking small portions from several places from the entire area of the pan.
Note 2—Keep samples in moisture-tight containers from the time of sampling to the time of testing.
- 10.3 Weigh a pan and record this weight to the nearest 0.1 g as *A* under Section 11.
- 10.4 Quickly place approximately 2000 g of mix in the pan and weigh to the nearest 0.1 g. Record the combined weight of the pan and sample as *B* under Section 11.
- 10.5 Immediately place material in pre-heated oven and allow sample to dry at 200–300°F (93–150°C). Stir sample periodically to facilitate drying.
- 10.6 Remove pan of material at 30-min. intervals and weigh to the nearest 0.1 g. Record the combined weight of the pan and sample.
- 10.7 Place pan back in oven immediately and continue drying.
- 10.8 Continue the drying and weighing procedure until a constant weight is reached. Record final weight of the pan and sample [to the nearest 0.1 g](#) as *C* under Section 11.
Note 3—Constant weight is defined as the weight at which further drying does not alter the weight by more than 0.05% in a 2-hr. or longer drying interval in accordance with Section 11.

11. CALCULATIONS

11.1 Calculate the percent by weight of moisture in the sample:

11.1.1 For Aggregates:

$$\text{Moisture Content} = \frac{B - C}{C - A} \times 100$$

11.1.2 For Bituminous Mixtures:

$$\text{Moisture Content} = \frac{B - C}{B - A} \times 100$$

Where:

A = Tare weight of pan

B = Original sample weight plus pan

C = Final sample weight plus pan.

Note 4—Other methods of moisture determination that correlate satisfactorily with Part I or Part II may be used.

11.2 Calculate the percent difference in weight:

$$\text{Percent Difference} = \frac{\text{Initial Weight} - \text{Final Weight}}{\text{Initial Weight}} \times 100$$

11.3 Report moisture content test results to the nearest 0.1%.

12. ARCHIVED VERSIONS

12.1 Archived versions are available.