

## How to Speed Up your Soil Testing and Improve Quality

Every lab manager knows that a good laboratory quality control program is essential for producing results that are accurate and reproducible. That quality control program includes a long list of procedures, calibration checks, QC soil samples and reports. Yet still there's one step in the process that isn't always so precise. It's not the chemistry, the expensive analyzers or reporting tools, it's the *filter paper*.

Filter manufacturers cut and box filters in flat circles instead of the trifold conical shape that soil labs need. In order to operate quickly, labs are forced to hire temporary workers or pay their own highly valued lab techs to fold filter paper for several months ahead of time. This process can have any number of pitfalls:

- Sodium contamination from too much human handling that could ultimately give erroneous results.
- Careless folding or crushing of the filters that makes them unusable in an operation that needs to move fast.
- Fuzzy frayed edges on filters without clean cuts that can cause loose "lint" that clogs the funnel.
- Time, money, and hassle of dealing with a separate filter folding operation, that distracts lab managers from what's important – running a high quality testing lab!

Midland Scientific spoke with their customers about this issue and decided to help. The new MSI trifold filters were developed with the lab manager in mind. The filters are cut and folded by a precision machine in a humidity controlled environment -- this offers a clean cut without any human handling or contamination. The trifold filters are nested into easy to handle sleeves, stacked like disposable paper cups at a water cooler. The plastic sleeves are protective but loose, so all the filters come out usable without any bends, folds, or waste that comes with tight vacuum packaging. Some of the largest testing labs in the country are using MSI trifold filters now in their operations.

As one customer noted, *"We are using these papers to filter our forage extract samples for Nitrate-N testing. Also, we use them for our ICP digestion filtration for mineral testing preparation. The labor savings we have encountered from not having to fold papers has afforded our Laboratory Technicians more time to work on other projects. Great move by Midland Scientific finding solutions for customer's needs!"* - Jeff Horst  
Laboratory Production Manager, Agri-King Inc.

To see how Midland Scientific can help you reduce time, save money and increase quality of your lab call 800-642-5263

For more information and FREE sample sleeve of MSI trifold filter paper see [Midlandsci.com/trifoldfilterpaper](http://Midlandsci.com/trifoldfilterpaper)

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Written by Mary Blase, on behalf of Midland Scientific Inc.

Midland Scientific Inc. is a nationwide full-line distributor of laboratory chemicals, equipment, instruments and supplies. The company serves a diverse range of industries, including agriculture, ethanol/biofuel, food, manufacturing, environmental, and research markets from warehouses located in Davenport IA, Rapid City SD, Denver CO and corporate headquarters in Omaha NE. Midland Scientific is a WBENC certified woman-owned business that was founded in 1975.